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NUREMBERG 2015**

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# Model MILITARY INTERNATIONAL

Issue 109 May 2015  
[www.modelmilitary.com](http://www.modelmilitary.com)



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SWS in a 1:35 scale diorama

**THE ICON**  
Scratch-built figure modelling



Dragon's new  
Black Label 1:35  
scale Saladin

# GONE TROPPO



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May 2015 / £4.20 / Issue 109

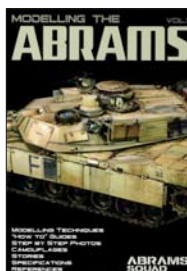


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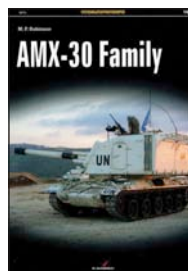
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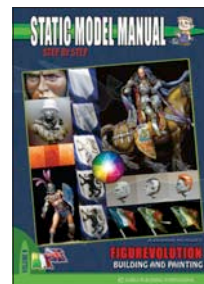
**Photosniper 15 - Königstiger**  
This publication aims to present the history of the King Tiger and his tactical and technical qualities. This book is enriched by archival photographs and sketches of different versions of the tank, equipped with both turret variants - the Porsche and Henschel supported by a dozen reconstructed on the basis of archival materials color schemes, useful especially for modelers. 80 pages, archive photos, color profiles. **£15.99**



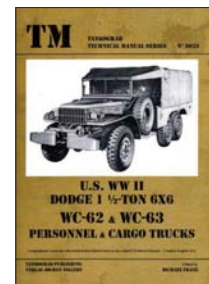
**Green 40 - M108/109 SPH in Detail - M108, M109, M109A2 and Dutch M109A2-90**  
Published by WWP Books, Authors Jan Hork and Frantisek Korn, 108 pages, 390 colour photos and manual drawings, soft cover, V4 binding. **£23.99**



**Panzer Aces 48**  
Armour Modelling Magazine. 64 pages, full colour. **£10.99**



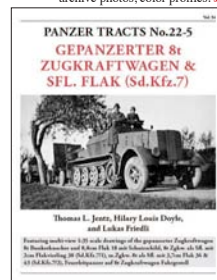
**Static Model Manual 9 - Figurevolution**  
With a bit of practise, using well-known techniques and proven materials it is not difficult to achieve miniatures at a more than respectable level. Alex Michelotti attempts to provide substantial assistance to enable us to reach the goal of creating our own personal style! Step by step photos, secrets, tricks, shortcuts, anything goes. 84 pages, Full color. **£19.99**



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This 88 page Panzer Tracts is the ultimate and only accurate primary source reference on the gepanzert 8t Zugkraftwagen 8t (Sd.Kfz.7) and Flak Sfl. for both beginners and experts. There are 21 pages of 1:35 scale drawings grouped together to facilitate comparison and over 100 clear large-format photos most of which have never been published before. **£28.99**



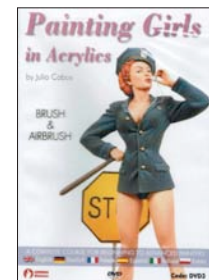
**Superking - Building Trumpeter's 1:16th Scale King Tiger**  
The step by step story of David Parker's remarkable award winning 1:16 scale replica. Bringing together the three and a half year coverage from AFV Modeller with additional unpublished material and combining archive photographs with extensive walkaround photography of the real vehicle in 452 pages with over 1500 images for the ultimate guide to modelling the King Tiger. Available in Hardbound & Softbound. H/B £65.00, P/B. **£55.00**



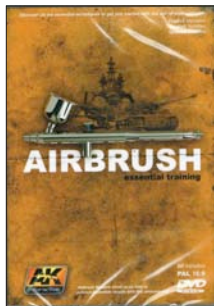
**Abrams Squad 8 - The Modern Modelling Magazine**  
Articles include T-62 Model 1972, M-ATV, Operation 'Peace for Galilee' Magach 6, T-72 M1 Czech, LeClerc, and Turret Basket. 72 pages, full colour. **£9.99**



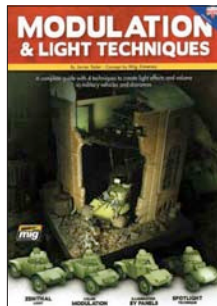
**Tankograd 6034 - U.S. WW II & Korea M4A3 Sherman (76mm) Medium Tank**  
48 pages with 150-200 illustrations, among them WW2 action photos, colour photos and technical drawings. Illustrated throughout. Excerpts of technical manuals, wartime photos, photos of restored vehicles. Ideal companion for modellers and fans of technology. Complete background history and variants. **£9.99**



**Painting Girls in Acrylics**  
Master Julio Cabos explains through clear, step-by-step sequences, how to paint girl figures from beginning to advanced levels, introducing an innovative painting technique using brush and airbrush. DVD, running time 90 minutes. **£19.95**



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This DVD covers basics of airbrushing which will help lay the foundation for successful use of a double action airbrush. This DVD will give you a solid non-sense foundation which will take the fear and mystery out of using this essential tool. Even the more experienced modeller will pick up a few things from watching this DVD. **£9.99**



**Modulation & Light Techniques**  
This book explains in depth in an educational and visually easy to follow format, how to apply various light effects on your models, including the famous modulation technique. Through its 106 pages, hundreds of photos and numerous diagrams show how to obtain more from your models and give them more life and personality. **£22.99**



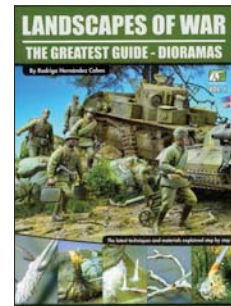
**Art of Modelling 7**  
Chapters include Honda CR250R by Tamiya, Painting and Weathering a Red Oxide Finish by Adam Wilder, Gvozdička Trumpeter Russian 251 Diorama, The Enemy at Home. Paperback, 66 pages, full colour. **£7.95**



**The Modeller's Guide: Superdetailing, Painting and Weathering Aircraft of WWII**  
The book is intended for both beginners and advanced modellers as it covers a wide variety of modelling tasks. 178 pages, full colour. **£18.95**



**The Weathering Magazine 10 - Water**  
This issue is dedicated to water and moisture. The best modellers in the world will offer a repertoire of exceptional examples and they explain with detailed step by step process, all the newest tricks and techniques to get your models represent similar conditions. From ships at offshore to tanks out of the water or crossing rivers, seaplanes, standing water, streams and much more. 64 pages. **£8.99**



**Landscapes of War - The Greatest Guide - Dioramas**  
By Rodrigo Hernandez Cabos. Chapters include: Barbamora Coniferous Woods Forest with Rocks, Counterstrike and Retreat, Fall-Winter 1943/44 Rocks, water, vegetation, snow, ice and icicles, Cruel Pacific, Bloody Beach Reproducing Sea Water, Duck Hunt Stream Bed, Techniques. **£17.99**

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## Iwata Freestyle Air Battery Powered Compressor

**T**he Airbrush Company has announced the launch of the Iwata Freestyle Air Battery Powered Compressor, along with accessories.

The compressor includes an AC power adapter with international plugs, making it perfect for domestic and international use/travel.

The compressor is available from The Airbrush Company, who will also be pleased to answer any questions about this new product.

Thanks to The Airbrush Company for the images and information [www.airbrushes.com](http://www.airbrushes.com)



## EMS 2015 MODEL SHOW

The EMS 2015 model show is being jointly hosted by the IPMS Hornchurch, South East Essex and Chelmsford and Essex MAFVA on Sunday, 26th. July 2015 between 10.00 am and 16.00pm-setting up from 08.00am. Admission; Adults- £3.00, Child/OAP-£1-50

The venue is Hannakins Farm Community Centre, Rosebay Ave., Billericay, Essex, CM12 0SZ.

For Club and Trader enquiries, please contact respectively:

Jim Smith - 07787 381976, email: [wifflesboop@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:wifflesboop@yahoo.co.uk)

John Drummond - 01702 205494, email: [drummond9@talktalk.net](mailto:drummond9@talktalk.net)



## MINI ART NEW RELEASES AND AWARDS

Two Mini Art releases received "Model Fan" magazine awards at the recent Nuremberg Hobby Show. The kits were:

- 35162 Pz. Kpfw. III Ausf B
- 38003 GERMAN TRAMCAR 641

Mini Art has also announced a range of forthcoming releases for 2015.

The new items are:

- 35145 BZ-38 REFUELLER
- 35156 GAZ-05-193 STAFF BUS
- 35160 GAZ-03-30 AMBULANCE
- 35164 GAZ-05-194 AMBULANCE
- 35169 Pz. Kpfw. III Ausf. D
- 35172 U.S. MOTORCYCLE WLA w/RIDERS
- 35176 REST ON MOTORCYCLE
- 35179 U.S. MOTORCYCLE WLA w/RIFLEMAN
- 35182 U.S. SOLDIER PUSHING MOTORCYCLE
- 35183 GAZ-AAA w/BOX BODY
- 35188 U.S. ARMoured BULLDOZER
- 35190 U.S. AMMO-LOADING TANK CREW
- 35195 U.S. ARMY BULLDOZER
- 38002 GERMAN FIRE TRUCK LF8 w/TSA
- 38005 GAZ-03-30 Mod.1945

New "secret items" are also under development. These will be announced in the coming months.

Thanks to Mini Art for the images and information [www.miniart-models.com](http://www.miniart-models.com)



## PLUS MODEL NEW RELEASES

Plus Model has announced the release of a new 1:35 scale Morris CS8 with MK III body.

They have also released Item No.444, a German battery charger, No.450 Wooden boxes for bottles and small transport boxes, Item No.452.

Check out Plusmodel's website for more images and information - [www.plusmodel.cz](http://www.plusmodel.cz)



## TAMIYA 1:48 RELEASES

Tamiya's next 1:48 scale military release will be the German light tank 38(t).

The 38(t) was designed and entered production for the Czechoslovak Army as the LT vz. 38, however before any could be delivered Germany occupied then divided the country. They rated the tank highly, ordering continued production of the initial lot of 150, renaming it the 38(t) with (t) denoting its Czech origin. It went on to serve as the front-line tank for the Wehrmacht in early WWII, from the initial operations in Poland up to and including Operation Barbarossa, the invasion of the Soviet Union in June 1941.

It wielded a 37mm gun with 90 rounds on board, a coaxial 7.92mm MG37(t) machine gun, and another MG37 on the front left of the vehicle. 42km/h was squeezed out of the 6-cylinder engine. Ausf.E/F 38(t) variants featured doubled front armor thickness at 50mm, with 30mm on the hull and turret sides. 525 were produced in the period from November 1940 to October 1941.

Also available soon from Tamiya is their 1:48 scale Panzer IV Ausf. H Late Version. Optional pressed zimmerit will be released for this kit too.

Thanks to Tamiya for the images and information [www.tamiya.com](http://www.tamiya.com)

Tamiya kits are distributed in the UK by The Hobby Company

Limited [www.hobbyco.net](http://www.hobbyco.net)

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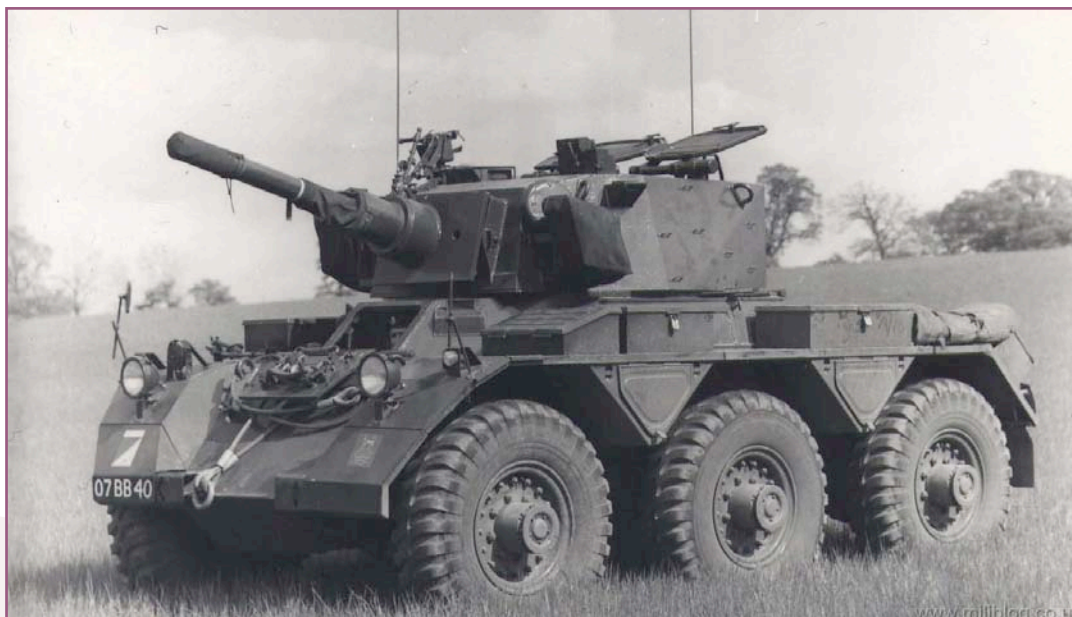
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An examination of the development, variants and operations of the Saladin armoured car, plus some details about the 1960/61 Australian Tropical Trials.

## SALADIN ARMOURER CAR CLOSE-UP AND AUSTRALIAN TROPICAL TRIALS

**T**he Alvis Saladin was a 6x6 British armoured car conceived in the immediate post-WWII era but not actually entering service until 1958.

The Saladin armoured car was powered by a rear mounted Rolls-Royce B80 Mk.6A 8 cylinder petrol engine. Top speed was 72 km/h and range was around 400 km.

The vehicle had a crew of three with a driver in the front, and the commander and gunner in the two-man welded turret.

The main armament was the 76 mm L5A1 gun, which was powerful for its time and sufficient to deal with most armoured targets except tanks. However, the gun was limited by its lack of stabilisation and its rudimentary fire controls.

The turret was also fitted with a co-axial M1919A4 Browning .30 calibre machine gun, and another .30 cal could be fitted to the turret roof. These were rechambered to accept NATO 7.62 x 51 mm ammunition.

Protection from small arms fire, machine gun rounds and shell splinters was provided by armour of up to 32 mm.

### IN SERVICE

The Saladin was designed to perform reconnaissance and policing duties. Its speed, firepower and effective armour made it ideal for these roles.

The Saladin saw extensive service with the British Army both home and abroad, including the Aden Emergency, Northern Ireland, The Malayan Emergency, defence ►

"Yellow 13", a desert camouflaged Alvis Saladin Mk.2 photographed during 1967 in Aden.





A colour photo of a Saracen, one of the FV600 series of vehicles.



Alvis Saracen Armoured Personnel Carrier.



Saracen GPO (Gun Position Officer) armoured command vehicle.



Alvis Stalwart amphibious truck.



Alvis Mk.6a crash tender.



# Think Tank - Saladin Armoured Car: Close Up and Tropical Trials

of Nicosia Airport in 1974, and related United Nations operations. The Saladin also saw service with a number of foreign operators. These were:

- Australia (including Saladin turrets fitted to 15 M113A1 hulls as a Fire Support Vehicle conversions)
- Germany (German Federal Police)
- Ghana
- Honduras
- Indonesia
- Jordan
- Kenya
- Kuwait
- Lebanon
- Maldives
- Mauritania
- Oman
- Portugal
- Sri Lanka
- Sudan
- Tunisia
- Uganda
- United Kingdom
- Yemen
- Qatar
- United Arab Emirates

In foreign service, the Saladin saw action in the Sri Lankan civil war, the Dhofar Conflict, the Gulf War and the Lebanese civil war.

## FV600 SERIES VARIANTS

The Alvis Saladin was just one of a versatile family of British six-wheeled armoured vehicles in the FV600 series.

The main types in the FV600 family may be summarised as:

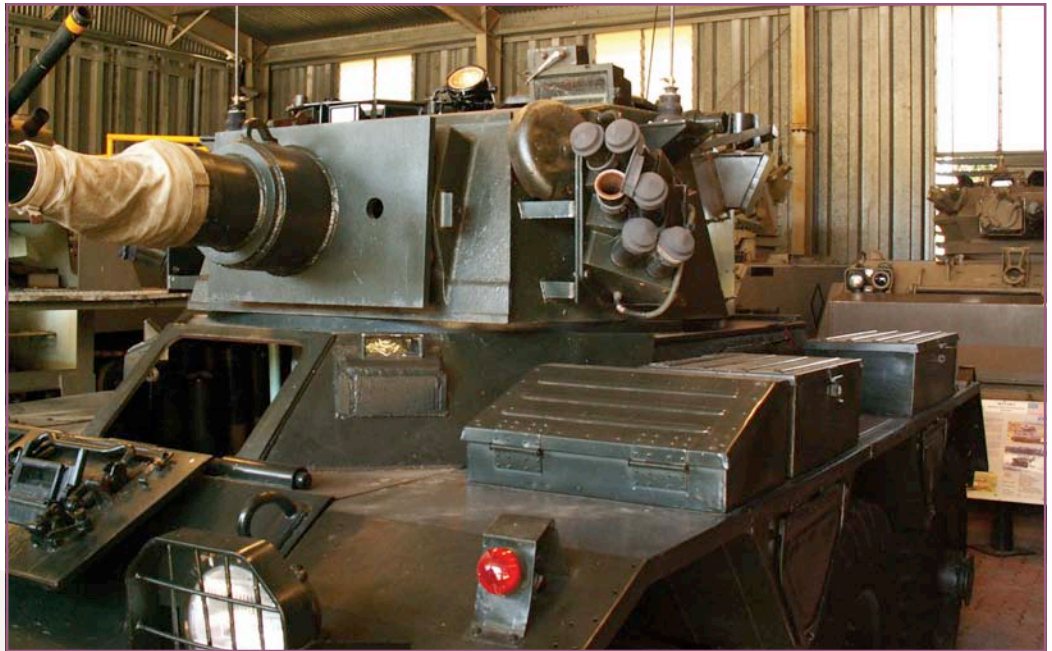
- FV 601A - Saladin
- FV 601B - Saladin Mk.1
- FV 601C - Saladin Mk.2
- FV 603A - Saracen Mk.1
- FV 603B - Saracen RCV
- FV 603C - Saracen Mk.2
- FV 604 - Saracen RCV
- FV 605 - Saracen Ambulance
- FV 610 - Saracen ACV
- FV 622 - Stalwart

## TROPICAL TRIALS IN NORTHERN AND CENTRAL AUSTRALIA 1960/61

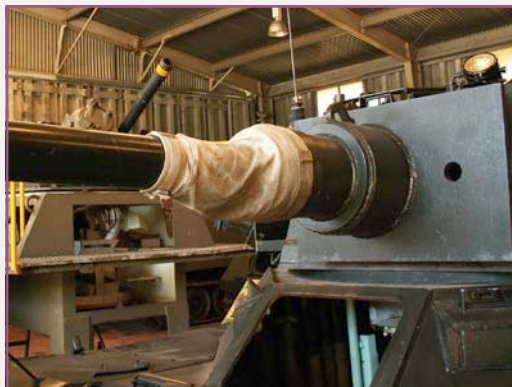
In response to a request from the British War Office, the Australian Army conducted extensive trials of the Saladin armoured car under harsh tropical and desert conditions during the wet season of 1960/61.

The F1119(A) Heavy Recovery Tractor was trialled alongside the Saladin. A Land Rover with an Australian Ambulance body and a Canadian Bombardier Muskeg also accompanied these vehicles.

The trials commenced on 2 November 1960, when the four vehicles departed Melbourne to drive to Innisfail in Far North Queensland, which was to serve as the operational headquarters.



The Alvis Saladin Mk.2 at Australia's Tank Museum.



Close-up view of the barrel's dust cover.



The turret-mounted remote vision box and wiper.



The smoke dischargers with caps in place.

The objective of the trials were:

- To assess the Saladin's suitability, performance and reliability under tropical conditions.
- To assess the deterioration of the vehicle and components when parked in open tropical conditions.
- To obtain data for the design of future vehicles.
- To determine any special servicing or maintenance techniques to meet tropical conditions.

More than 10,000 miles were covered over the six months of the trials. The majority of the time was spent in the hot/wet tropical area south of Cairns, while around half the miles were accumulated on overland trips including trials in hot-dry and dusty conditions carried out en-route through Western Queensland, the Northern Territory and South Australia.

In summary, the trials report concluded that there were a large number of defects, both major and minor, and that the vehicle spent much time under repair. The vehicle was less reliable than desired.

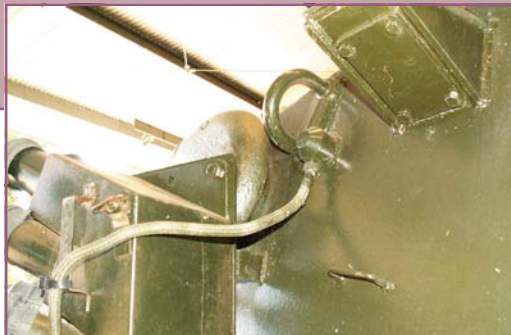
Even so, the Saladin was considered suitable for operations under severe tropical conditions provided that crews took off-road performance and limitations into account; that care was taken to avoid damaging the steering system (i.e. not hitting obstacles); and that some of the specifically noted mechanical weaknesses such as drive belts were improved wherever possible.

It was also noted that crew comfort was acceptable, but that improvements would be desirable.

Finally, for vehicles stored in tropical conditions, it was recommended that servicing should take place at intervals not greater than 14 days.

Sources:

- Australian Army Report No. TI1919, "Tropical Trials in Northern and Central Australia 1960/61".
- Australian War Memorial: Tropical Trials in Northern and Central Australia 1960-1961 Part 3 Armoured Car 6 x 6 Saladin Mk2 FV601(C) - <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/F03718/>
- Wikipedia: Alvis Saladin Armoured Car - [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alvis\\_Saladin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alvis_Saladin)
- Wikipedia: List of FV series military vehicles - [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_FV\\_series\\_military\\_vehicles](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_FV_series_military_vehicles)
- M113A1 Fire Support Vehicle by Paul Handel <http://anzacsteel.com> ►



Detail view of the electrical wiring for the smoke dischargers



Lower detail view of the left side aerial mount.



Right-side antenna mount.



Hinge detail on the engine deck.



Rear mudguard detail, including the empty jerry can rack.



The heavy engine deck grille. The radiator may be seen through here.



Exhaust pipes behind the muffler.



Running gear components.



An overall view of the turret. Note the size of the turret tie-downs and also the folded cradle for the .30 cal machine gun barrel.



Road wheel detail.



# Think Tank - Saladin Armoured Car: Close Up and Tropical Trials

- ◀ [hobbyvista.com/Armoured%20Vehicles/m113a1fsvph\\_1.htm](http://hobbyvista.com/Armoured%20Vehicles/m113a1fsvph_1.htm)
- FV600 Series of Six-Wheel Armoured Vehicles [http://www.jedsite.info/afv-foxtrot/foxtrot/fv600\\_series/fv600-series.html](http://www.jedsite.info/afv-foxtrot/foxtrot/fv600_series/fv600-series.html)
- Weapon Systems: Saladin - <http://weaponsystems.net/weapon.php?weapon=CC01+-+Saladin>
- Al Bowie - walk around photos from The Tank Museum, Pukapunyal
- Paul Handel - photos of trial vehicle ■

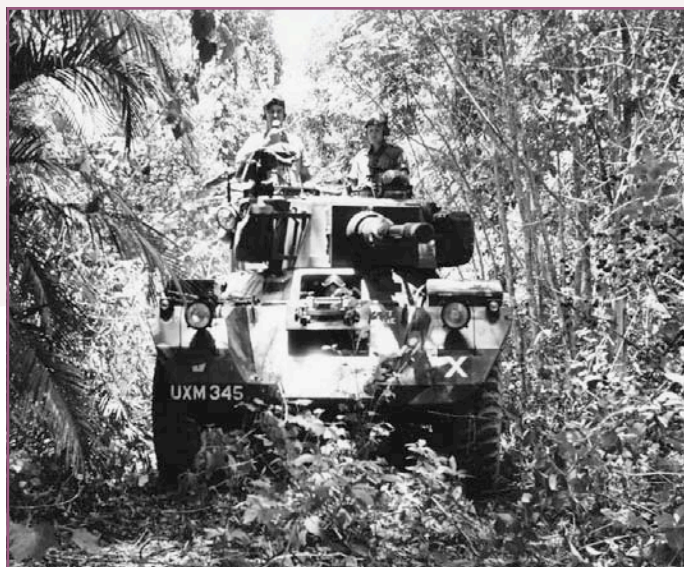
A colour photograph of the two trials vehicles in trouble during a muddy crossing in North Queensland.



The Australian trials Saladin being lifted by a heavy recovery vehicle.



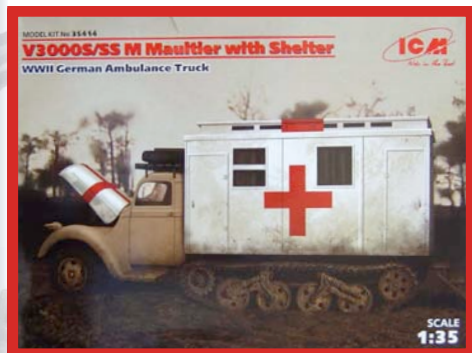
The trials Saladin fording a flooded creek.



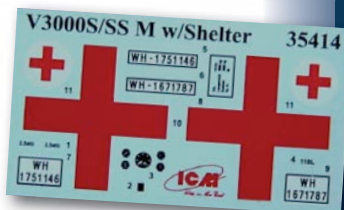
Crashing through Australian tropical tracks. Note the British civilian registration.



More wet trials.



Kit decals.



ICM's latest variation on the Maultier theme is a 1:35 scale V3000 Ambulance Truck. Graham Tetley is impressed.

# NURSE! NURSE!

**N**ot too long ago I did a review of ICM's version of this kit towing a Pak 36. My comments there were that I was impressed with what is in the box. Those comments still stand, in fact it is nice to have another to build!

What we have in the box here is the same cab, chassis and running gear, but now wedded to a new shelter section that comes on 3 sprues. There are 290 parts overall, generally very well moulded, however there is some flash in a few areas. Nothing major though, and certainly nothing that a bit of sandpaper and a file won't cure. Whilst there are some seam lines and knock out marks these are easily cleaned and not in places where they will be too noticeable.

## IN THE BOX

The level of detail that ICM is putting in their kits now is very good and this kit is no exception.

A detailed engine kicks off the assembly and this is then added to the chassis. As with most ICM truck kits the chassis comes as separate parts so I recommend a straight edged ruler or similar to aid assembly. When building the chassis it is a good idea to use the shelter base as a key to help get it all straight. Link & length track is provided and the only problem that I can see is getting those links off of the sprue without them shattering. I used a brand new

blade in my X-Acto knife to gently score the links free of the sprue - some still broke but not too many. I guess that moulding them this way keeps the costs down.

The bonnet can be assembled with the top part removable to show off the engine (just add wiring) and, turning to the cab, it has all the driver's pedals and controls faithfully reproduced. We get some decals for the dials, which is always a great touch.

The parts for the shelter come on three sprues, one of which is the clear parts for the windows. Detail is to the same standard as the rest of the kit. One thing I must say before going any further though is that I am a little disappointed that there is no interior. ICM provides us with individual parts for the side and rear doors, but there is no detail to the inside of the parts and nothing to see if you leave them open. One could always scratch build one, but if you leave the doors open you are going have to guess at what the interior looks like. I for one would not have minded paying more for this kit if it had the insides - ICM take note please.

The shelter is made of separate sides so, much like the chassis, use something straight and right-angled to get this fitting perfectly. There isn't really a lot to say about it as shelter really is a simple construction. Once done it simply slots onto the chassis. A set of steps at the rear can be

positioned up or down - most will affix them stowed as there is little reason to have the doors open! On this kit new parts are provided for the spare wheel and holder which all goes on the cab roof.

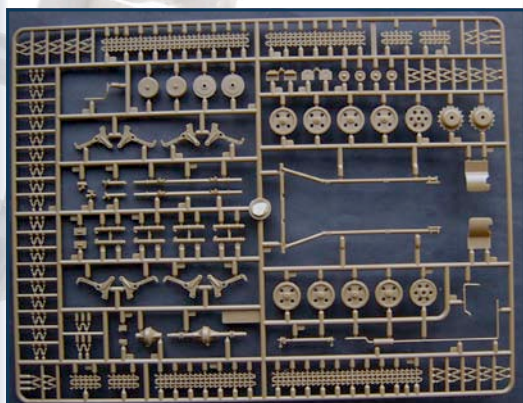
## DECALS AND INSTRUCTIONS

Marking options are limited to two vehicles - both late war and one with a white shelter, one Panzer Grey. For me, a highlight of ICM kits is the instructions, and this kit is no different, with everything being clearly drawn and uncluttered. There are no errors that I found and the only thing to really be aware of is the part of the running boards that you have to remove in Step 17. Do not trim off the 11mm as requested - do 10mm and sand it back from there to get a perfect fit.

## CONCLUSION

The ICM kit is very nice and will build into a fine model with scope for extra detailing. It is a shame that there is no interior for the shelter, but the kit is otherwise superb. ICM has packed lots of detail into it - especially the chassis and running gear - then topped it all off with clear instructions and a very respectable retail price. For that, it gets a 'Recommended With Thumbs Up' from me. ■

Thanks to ICM for the sample  
[www.icm.ua](http://www.icm.ua)



The link and length tracks.



The lovely cab roof.



Front wheels are supplied as plastic parts.



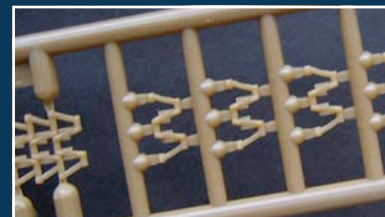
The side of the rear steps.



Road wheels and drive sprocket close-up.



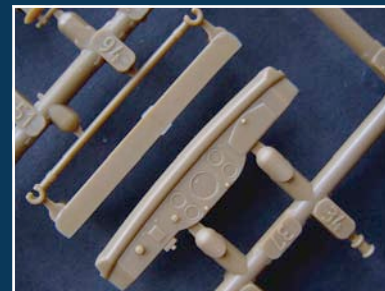
The tracks are nicely done.



It will be fun getting these off the sprue in one piece!



Suspension parts up close.



Dashboard detail.



Detail in the shelter sides.

[www.creativemodels.co.uk](http://www.creativemodels.co.uk)

Model by Wayne Hui

Model by Jeremy Moore

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# GONE TROPPO

**The Editor** builds and improves Dragon's brand-new 1:35 scale Black Label Saladin Mk.2 armoured car. The model is finished in the configuration and markings of a Saladin that took part in tropical trials in Northern Australia during 1960/61.



**D**ragon's recent Black Label series has had a mixed reception to date. On the one hand, this new series has delivered a number of rare, interesting and previously unavailable vehicle types. The models in the Black Label series generally feature a lower parts count than other recent Dragon releases, making them faster and easier to build.

On the other hand, some of the kits have accuracy problems, while there have also been complaints about oversimplification of detail in places.

#### WHAT'S IN THE BOX

The latest addition to Dragon's Black Label series is a 1:35 scale Saladin Mk.2 armoured car. The kit comprises 229 parts in grey plastic, four parts in clear, six flexible DS plastic tyres and a single photo-etched grille. This parts count is modest by Dragon standards.

The quality of the mouldings is excellent. I could not find any imperfections on the outside surfaces of any of the parts. Surface textures are crisp and fine.

Some of the details are a bit clunky, such as the shovel and the separate plastic turret tie-downs. If I build another Dragon Saladin, I would fill the large locating holes in the turret with Milliput and form new finer tie-downs from wire.

#### WHAT'S NOT IN THE BOX

A number of details are missing altogether. The most noticeable of these is on the inside of the three main hatches. The hatches are supplied as separate parts and may be posed open, but you're on your own with the structural features on the inner surfaces. I do understand that there is no interior detail provided elsewhere in the kit, but I am sure that many modellers will want to fit crew figures to the vehicle.

Also missing are exhaust pipes, tow cables, the .30 cal machine gun and mount and the canvas gun cover.

I suppose this is a golden opportunity for after-market accessory companies, but some of these obvious omissions are certainly baffling. ►



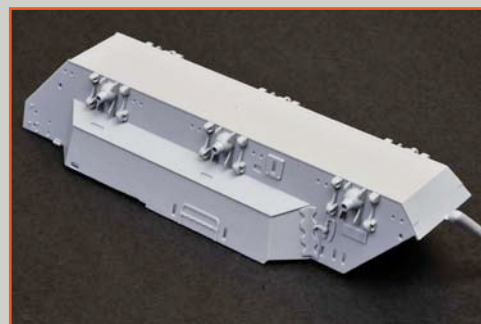
Box art of the new Dragon Black Label 1:35 Saladin shows some of the details missing from the kit including interior hatch detail, tow cables and .30 cal turret mounted machine gun.



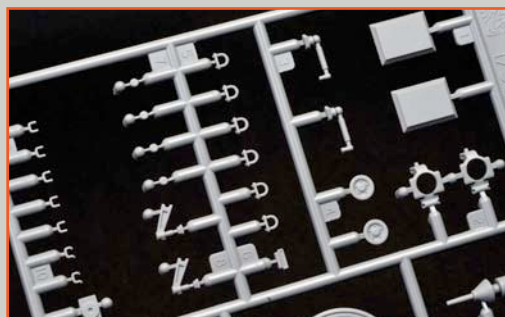
Markings are supplied for six vehicles.



The one-piece upper hull.



The lower hull is also a single piece, speeding assembly of this main area.



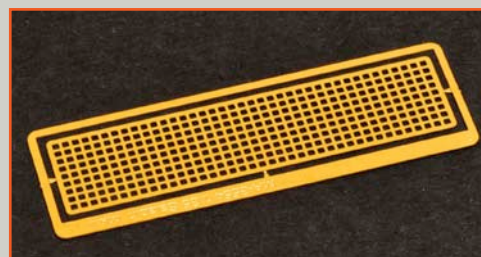
Parts are well moulded.



The tyres are flexible DS plastic.

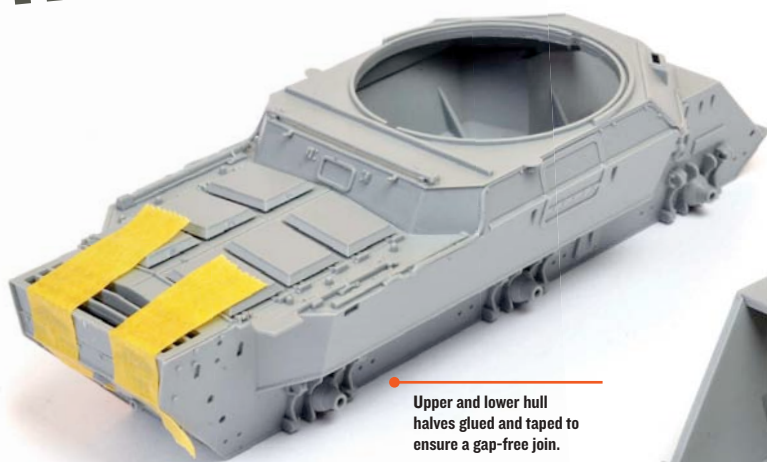


Clear parts are provided for light lenses and the turret vision box.



The kit-supplied photo-etch is a bit clunky.

**“Nobody could accuse Dragon of oversimplifying the running gear of their new Saladin kit. The design of the intricate suspension is equal parts ingenious and dastardly!”**



Upper and lower hull halves glued and taped to ensure a gap-free join.



The instructions suggest that the front hull armour should be added before the top hull is glued in place, but it is much easier to fit when the hull halves have been joined.

## GETTING STARTED

It seemed to me that, in general, this kit demanded a lot of clean up. There are many sprue attachment points and plenty of raised mould seams, so make sure you allocate as much time as necessary with a sharp knife and a sanding stick.

Having said that though, fit is excellent throughout.

The upper and lower body parts assemble quickly in the first four instruction steps.

I would strongly recommend that you delay fitting the forward upper hull armour plate (part A59) until after the upper and lower hull halves are joined in Step 4.

Nobody could accuse Dragon of oversimplifying the suspension of their new Saladin kit. The design of the intricate suspension is equal parts ingenious and dastardly! A number of the suspension parts are designed to be moveable during assembly, although this is a bit futile as ultimately the wheels are fixed at ground level and straight ahead. Having said that, I did leave all of the parts marked as "Do Not Cement" free to move, and this probably helped line up the final assembly of the suspension parts.

I found some of the illustrations in the instructions a bit confusing, so I have taken plenty of photos to show you how the sub-assemblies should look during construction.

Once the suspension is finished, the balance of assembly is quite fast. I used the kit's photo-etched grille for the engine deck, but it is a bit chunky and does not really represent mesh very well. I'd probably replace this next time.

There are only a couple of errors in the instructions:

- In Step 10, the stowage bins are labelled A33. They are actually B33.
- In Step 19, the tie-downs are labelled B5. They should be B9.

## COVERING UP

The Australian tropical trials vehicle, along with most other Saladins, was fitted with a flexible cover on the 76 mm gun barrel. The Australian-based vehicle also had covers over the smoke dischargers, a pack on each rear fender, and two heavy-looking bags dangling from the starboard side of the turret.

I made the barrel cover, the smoke discharger covers, the turret bags and the neatly folded tarp on the port rear fender from Kneadatite.

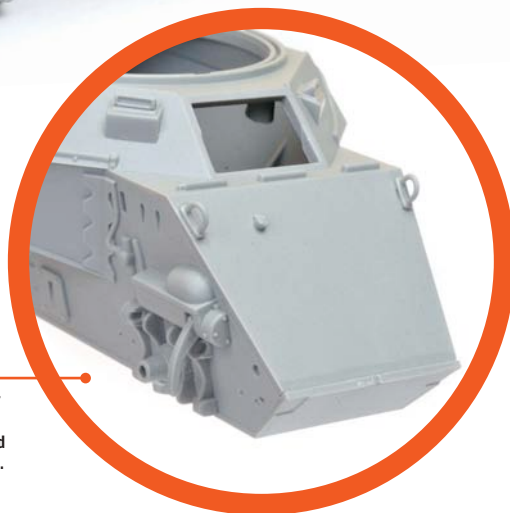
Kneadatite two-part epoxy putty comes in a blue and yellow strip. When the parts are sufficiently blended, it becomes an even shade of green. When mixed, Kneadatite feels quite stiff compared to Milliput. It is also shinier, with what feels like a harder surface.

I rolled and rubbed the two parts together between my fingers and palms until the colour was a solid green.

From this point on, I wore a pair of disposable gloves to avoid getting fingerprints on the impressionable material.

I sprinkled my green cutting mat with Johnsons Baby Powder and pressed the epoxy ball onto the surface. A small glass jar was also dusted with baby powder and used as a rolling pin. I rolled the jar firmly over the blended putty, the peeled it off, added more powder and repeated the process until I was happy with the size and the thickness of the epoxy sheet. The epoxy sheet was now trimmed into a rectangle by pressing down with the edge of a steel ruler.

The result was a thin and very flexible rectangle of epoxy, which I then rolled



The front hull armour is a perfect, trouble free fit when attached to the assembled hull.

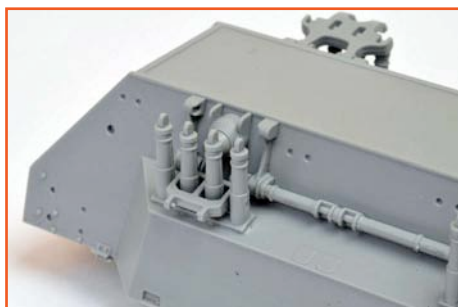


A number of the suspension components are designed to be workable after assembly.

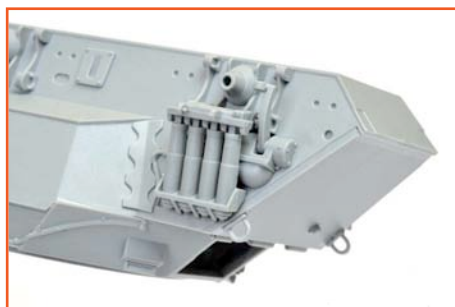
Here are the parts that make up one pair of the shock absorber assemblies.



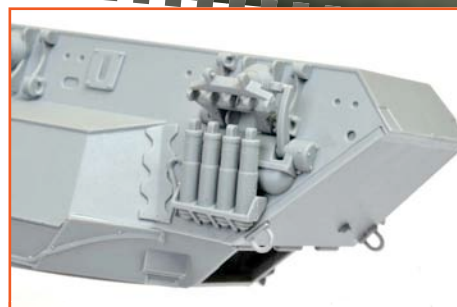
Note the heavy mould seams. I really should have spent more time cleaning these up! The instructions are not completely clear, but the shock absorbers need to pass through the holes in the movable arms.



The rear suspension in progress.



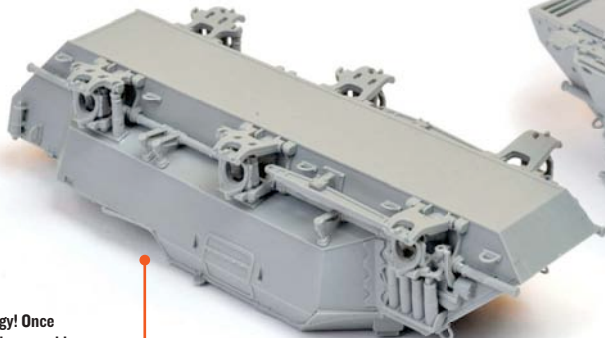
The lower mounts for the shock absorbers don't need to be glued. After assembly, they may be swung from the closed position...



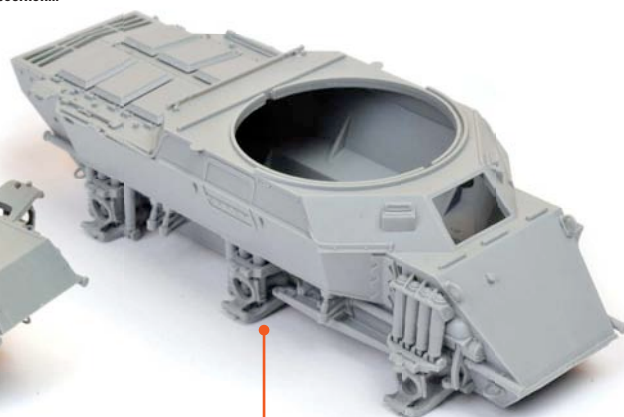
...to open.



I wish I knew the technical terminology! Once again, glue is not required for this sub-assembly. It can simply be slipped on to the suspension.



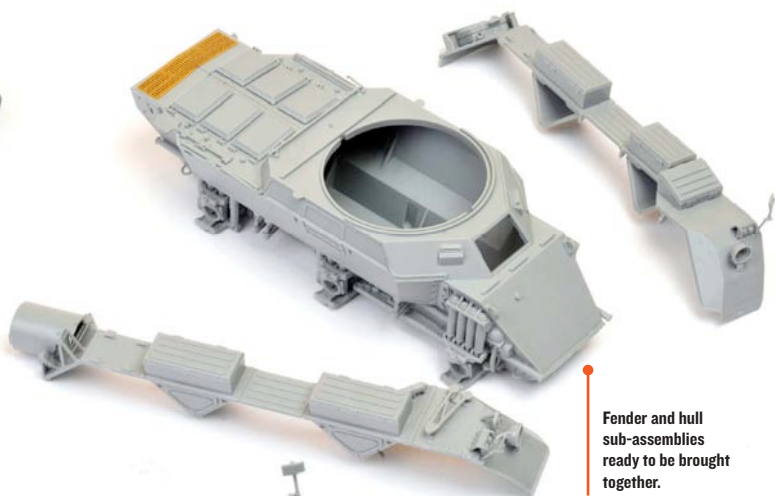
Once all the suspension parts were assembled, I made sure that the arms were aligned and flat against the ground, then applied Tamiya Extra Thin Liquid Cement to each unit to freeze them into position.



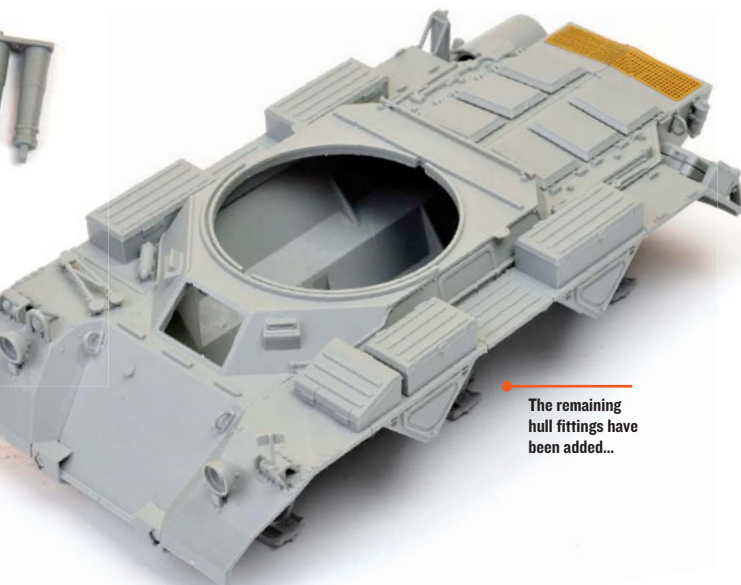
Sitting on its suspension.



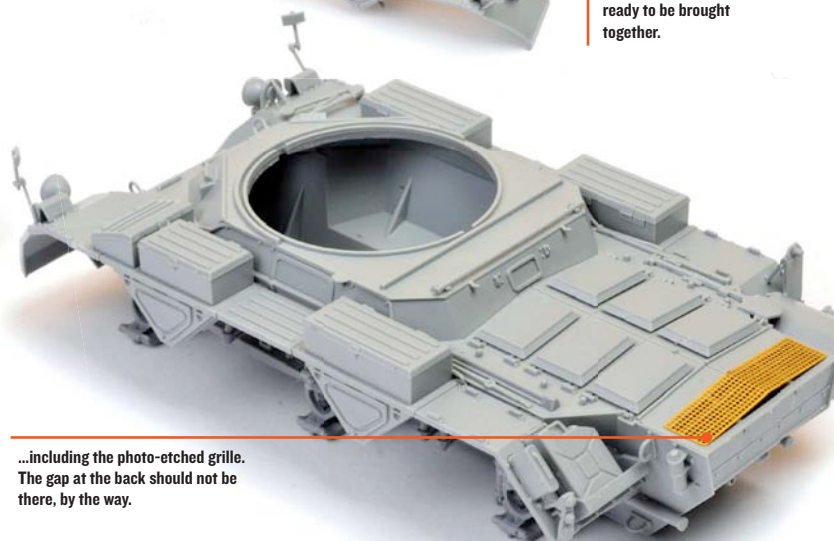
One of the fenders with associated stowage boxes and accessories. Note that the muffler does not appear to have any associated exhaust pipes.



Fender and hull sub-assemblies ready to be brought together.



The remaining hull fittings have been added...



...including the photo-etched grille. The gap at the back should not be there, by the way.



around the barrel and worked into the shape of a draped fabric cover. I was a bit overenthusiastic at one stage and the putty ripped at the top of the cover. I actually liked the look of this accidental damage, so I left it to represent torn fabric - surely a possibility after travel through the rugged jungle terrain of Far North Queensland.

Next, two thin epoxy rectangles were rolled and cut for each smoke discharger. Photos show these to be fairly simple bags covering the dischargers. The covers were made before the dischargers were

attached to the turret, making them easier to handle. I started by wrapping one rectangle from side to side, then a second rectangle from top to bottom. The basic cover was then prodded into the crevices. Seam and stitch detail was added with the tip of a hobby knife and a toothpick.

#### PACK UP YOUR TROUBLES

I could not tell from photos if the turret sack was a long single item slung over the handhold, or two individual bags. It had a heavy look about it, almost like a sandbag,

so I decided to roll the Kneadatite into a single long bag; narrower in the middle where it hangs over the handhold.

The neatly folded tarp was easy by comparison with the other covers and stowage. A thin length of thread was cut into two and wrapped around the tarp to finish off the sculpting.

I used a resin pack from Value Gear for the other rear fender. I had to shave off some of the structural detail on the plastic fender to allow the resin pack to sit flat.

#### INSIDE JOB

I was planning to fit crew figures to my Saladin, so I had to add detail to the inside of the turret and hull hatches. Fortunately, the turret hatch interiors are quite simple. Using reference photos found online, I scratch-built the raised structural and head cushion detail from Evergreen plastic strip and sheet. The long handholds were cut from doubled-over lengths of Tamiya masking tape.

The hull hatch was a bit more complex. I added the bottom of a vision scope from an old Verlinden

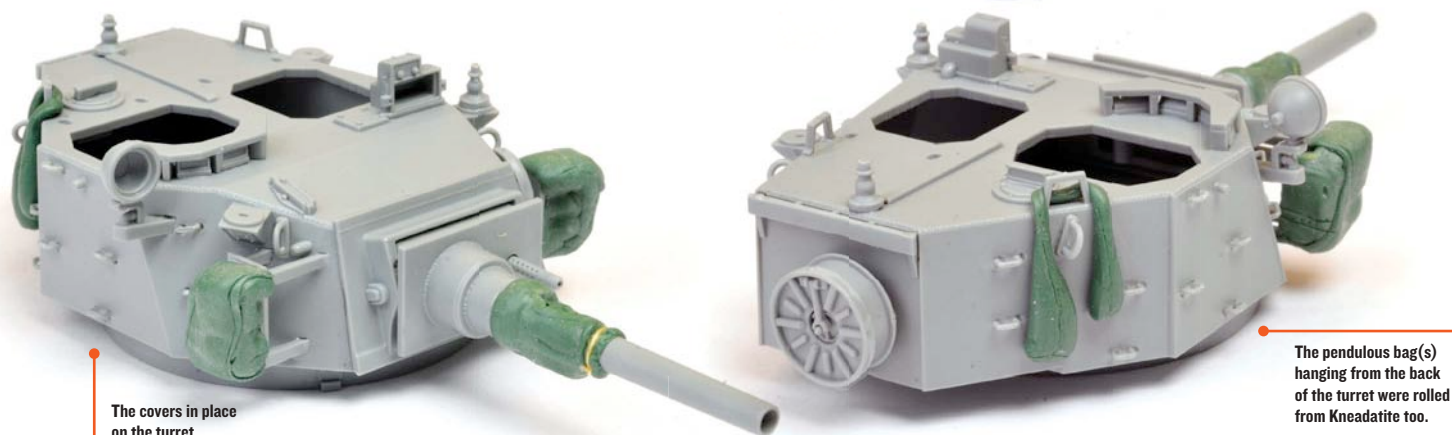
Kneadatite two-part epoxy putty was used to create various covers and stowage.



The putty was kneaded and rolled into a consistent green sausage, then rolled flat into a thin sheet.

One of these putty sheets was rolled around the 76 mm barrel and shaped to represent a draped cover. A length of thread was used to tie the front to the barrel.

Covers for the smoke dischargers were also formed from strips of rolled Kneadatite.





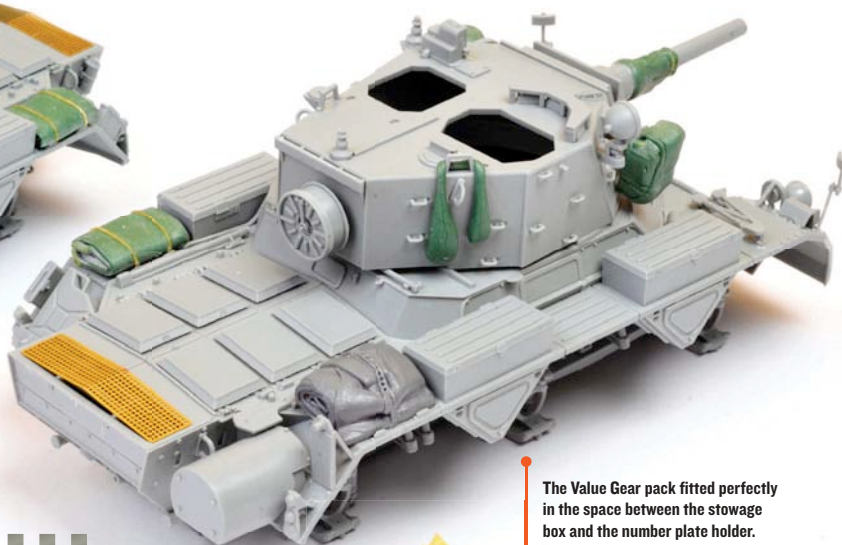
The pack on the rear starboard fender is from a Value Gear resin set, while the neatly folded tarpaulin is made from Kneadatite.



Some of the raised detail on the fender and the edge of the engine deck had to be carved off to allow the resin pack to sit flat.



The packs and covers certainly deliver a customised look to the model.



The Value Gear pack fitted perfectly in the space between the stowage box and the number plate holder.

set but I glued it on the wrong way around, noticing only after I had taken all the photos of the finished model. The rest of the detail was cut from plastic sheet and soft wire.

The only other changes I made were to the aerials and the mirrors. Photos of the trials vehicle show that the mirrors had been removed. This was because they risked damage while travelling through the heavy foliage and thick vines of the Queensland jungle.

In the end though, I only decided to remove the mirrors after I had dropped the hull upside down onto a cement floor, and one of them

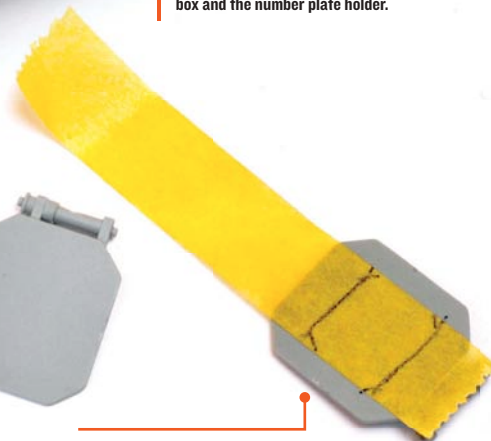
snapped off anyway!

Photos suggested that the trials vehicle had thinner aerials than those supplied by the kit, so the thick plastic masts were cut off their bases. The bases were then drilled out to accommodate thinner wire antennae after painting was complete.

I borrowed (permanently) the .30 cal mount from an old Tamiya M113A1 Fire Support Vehicle kit. In fact, over the years, it looks like I have "borrowed" most of the other parts from this kit too, as there is really only the turret now left in the box! The .30 cal machine gun itself came from the spares box. ▶



The inside of the turret hatches as supplied by Dragon – a blank canvas!



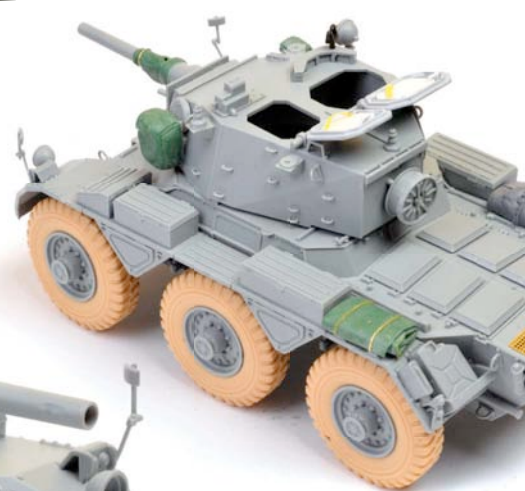
The rough dimensions of the padded headrest was drawn onto a piece of Tamiya masking tape then transferred to a piece of thin Evergreen plastic sheet.



Plastic strip was also used for the locking mechanisms and the seals.



Detail was also added to the driver's hatch.



Hatches have been added now, and the wheels are test-fitted. The wheels and turret will be removed for the painting phase.

## PAINTING

The turret and hull were separately sprayed with a coat of Tamiya's Grey Primer straight from the aerosol can.

The base colour was Tamiya's acrylic XF-67 NATO Green. This was followed by a mix of NATO Green with around 25% XF-60 Dark Yellow, sprayed mainly on horizontal surfaces and followed by an even paler mix on the centre of panels and in random streaks and mottles.

Next, the high areas and edges of the vehicle were dry brushed with a pale grey-green shade mixed from Vallejo acrylics. I find that Vallejo acrylics dry brush beautifully, and tend to stay workable on my paper palette for longer than other acrylics.

At this stage, the effect looks stark and unrealistic, but this is only the canvas for subsequent weathering.

Photos of the muffler suggest that it was painted a very pale colour, and something odd is happening on the rear panel. I could really only guess at what this was, but I tried to faithfully reproduce what I saw in the reference photos. I started with an overall coat of Tamiya acrylic XF-57 Buff, and then brush-painted the damp and rusty effects on the circular rear panel.

The covers and detail parts were brush-painted with Vallejo acrylics, then the model was sprayed with

two coats of Future floor polish. This provided a nice glossy base for decals, but also sealed the porous flat paint ahead of a selective oil wash.

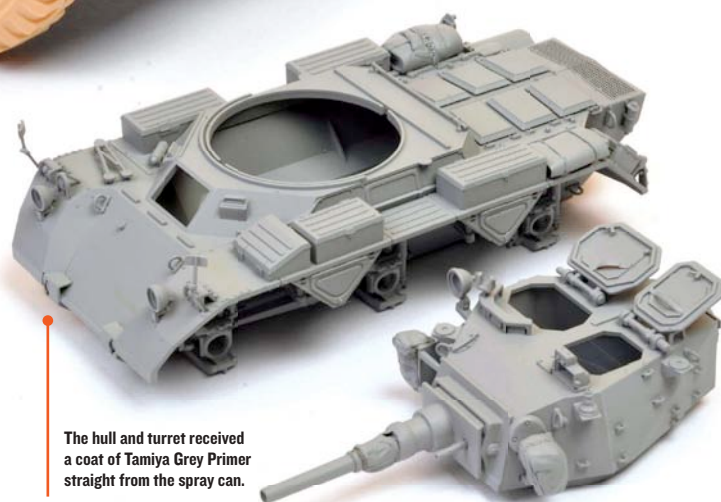
## SCROUNGING THE MARKINGS

The red turret diamonds were sourced from Fighting 48th! Decals - British Armoured Divisions, NEW, Set 6. In fact, these were actually squares, but I rotated them 45 degrees to suit!

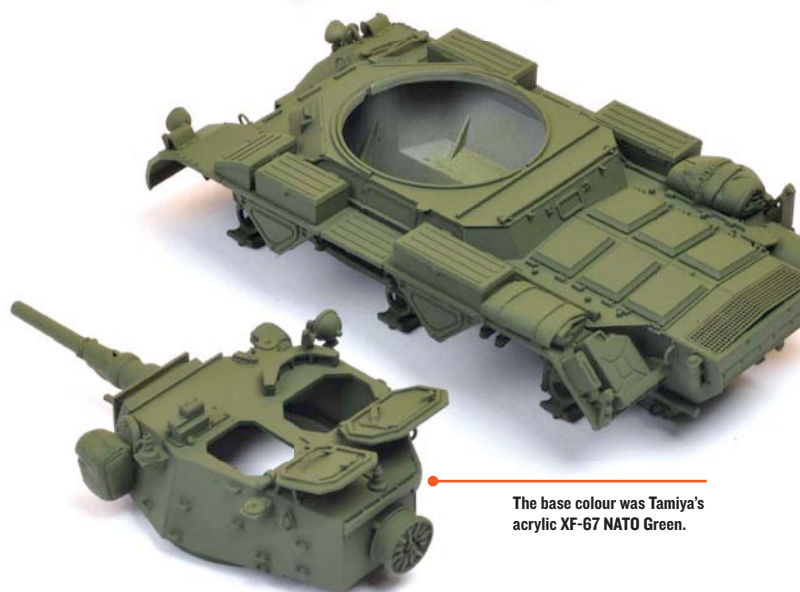
The trials vehicle had UK civilian number plates and an unusual "X" marking on black squares. I rifled through my decal drawers to find Spares Box Decals Elements White Helvetica Style Letters and Number decals - Item No. SBD006. These were a pretty good match for the size and font of the civilian number plates.

Black squares of decal film were applied to the front and rear fenders, then the "X"s were cut from a larger white X decal that was on Microscale Decals' Item No. 72-0026 - "US I.D. Letters and Numbers Various Sizes". I was not entirely happy with the broad stroke of the Xs once they were in place, so I attacked them with a fine brush and some black paint to slightly narrow the font.

The four vertical stripes on the rear hull were cut from white letters on Xtradecal Decal sheet X72129 - "RAF Post-War Serial Letters & Numbers, White".



The hull and turret received a coat of Tamiya Grey Primer straight from the spray can.



The base colour was Tamiya's acrylic XF-67 NATO Green.

This was followed by a mix of NATO Green with around 25% XF-60 Dark Yellow, then the high areas and edges of the vehicle were dry brushed with a pale grey-green shade mixed from Vallejo acrylics.



The model was sprayed with two coats of Future floor polish. This provided a nice glossy base for decals, but also sealed the porous flat paint ahead of a selective oil wash.



Black squares of decal film were applied to the front and rear fenders.



The kit weight class disk was overpainted with Vallejo yellow acrylic in preparation for its new number II.

## WEATHERING

I applied Wilder's Deep Shadow Wash around structural features and recessed panel lines while the model was still gloss. Next, a coat of Alclad II Klear Kote Flat restored the matt finish.

I used J's Work Chipping Effect Pen Set to apply dark coloured chips to the edges and some of the flat surfaces of the model. This is a really useful tool that supplies six sponges of different density, plus a handle and a base. I have never really been happy with my chipping efforts using a household sponge, but the J's Work sponges deliver great results.

After the weathering, I sprayed a heavily thinned (90% thinner to 10% paint) mixture of Tamiya acrylic XF-57 Buff onto the bottom surfaces, lower sides, front and rear of the hull to represent dust. Vertical streaks were also applied selectively.

The wheels were masked and painted. Weathering comprised a 50/50 mix of Maru Easy Mud 21103 North Africa (Desert) and 21105 European Earth, mixed with water and brushed onto the wheels and tyres. This was allowed to partially dry for just a few minutes, then the excess was wiped off with a soft cloth and a fingertip.

Similar Maru Mud treatment was applied to the insides of the fenders and the bottom of the hull, with a tiny amount also flicked onto the hull front and sides from a short distance with a paintbrush. ▶



The "X"s were cut from a larger white X decal that was on Microscale Decals' Item No. 72-0026 - "US I.D. Letters and Numbers Various Sizes".



Spares Box Decals Elements' White Helvetica Style Letters and Number decals were a pretty good match for the size and font of the civilian number plates.



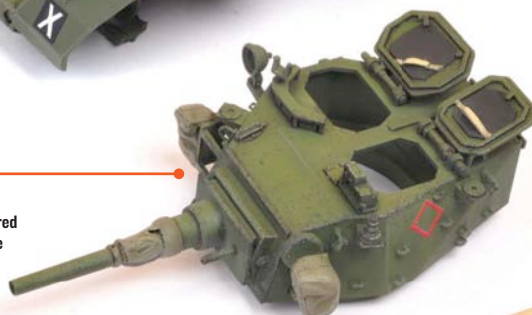
The four vertical stripes on the rear hull were cut from white letters on Xtradecal Decal sheet X72129 - "RAF Post-War Serial Letters & Numbers, White".



The covers, stowage and details were picked out with a fine brush and Vallejo acrylics.



Wilder's Deep Shadow Wash was applied around structural features. Next, a coat of Alclad II Klear Kote Flat restored the matt finish.



J's Work Chipping Effect Pen Set was used to add small, dark coloured chips to the edges and some of the flat surfaces of the model.



After the weathering, a heavily thinned (90% thinner to 10% paint) mixture of Tamiya acrylic XF-57 Buff was sprayed onto the bottom surfaces, lower sides, front and rear of the hull to represent dust.

After a few minutes, the excess was wiped off with a soft cloth and a fingertip.



The wheel and tyre components prior to painting. The flexible DS plastic tyres were glued to the wheels using Tamiya Extra Thin Liquid Cement to make sure that there were no unwanted gaps.



The base colour mix was sprayed onto the wheel hubs. No need to be precise here!



A mix of Vallejo acrylics was brush painted onto the front sidewalls of the tyres.



The hubs were masked off (Tamiya tape cut with an Olfa circle cutter)...



...then the rest of the tyres and the backs of the wheels were sprayed with a 50/50 mix of Tamiya acrylic XF-1 Flat Black and XF-64 Red Brown. The wheel nuts were picked out in red and silver, as suggested by photos and movie footage.



The wheels were weathered with a 50/50 blend of Maru Easy Mud 21103 North Africa (Desert) and 21105 European Earth, mixed with water and brushed onto the wheels and tyres.



A slightly glossy tide mark appeared on the front of the hull, so the clear parts were masked roughly and a second flat coat applied.



The same Maru Mud treatment was applied to the insides of the fenders and the bottom of the hull, with a tiny amount also flicked onto the hull front and sides from a short distance with a paintbrush.

Photos of the muffler suggest that it was painted a very pale colour. I started with an overall coat of Tamiya acrylic XF-57 Buff, and then brush-painted the damp and rusty effects on the circular rear panel.

**“I have never really been happy with my chipping efforts using a household sponge, but the J’s Work sponges deliver great results.”**



I chose three Australian figures to crew my vehicle. They were from Firestorm and Callsign Models – also a Firestorm brand.



The two Firestorm figures are from an older set but they are still nicely moulded and sculpted.



The new Callsign figure is superb.

#### ◀ CREWING UP

Firestorm Models has recently released a new line of figures named Callsign Models. These are mainly Vietnam War era Australian figures, but the uniforms are almost identical to the 1960/61 crews on the Saladin trial.

I’ve been looking for an excuse to use some of these figures ever since they were announced, so I ordered Item No. CS35033 “Australian APC/Tank Officer”. While I was at it, I also bought Firestorm’s resin “Australian APC Crew Vietnam”, Item No. FS35060.

Casting quality and sculpting was excellent. I particularly liked the facial features and fabric draping of the new Callsign Officer.

All three figures assembled without fuss. ▶



The flesh base is a 50/50 mix of Vallejo Model Colour 70815 Basic Skintone and Panzer Aces 341 Flesh Base. The faces and hands received a Burnt Sienna oil wash followed by painting of highlights and details with Vallejo acrylics.



The base colour for the Jungle Green uniforms is a mix of Tamiya XF-11 J.N. Green and XF-57 Buff applied with my airbrush.



I lightly dry brushed the uniforms with two successively paler shades of the base colour to lift the highlights.

## JUNGLE GREENS

The base colour for the Jungle Green uniforms is a mix of Tamiya XF-11 J.N. Green and XF-57 Buff applied with my airbrush.

I lightly dry brushed the uniforms with two successively paler shades of the base colour to lift the highlights.

Wilder's Deep Shadow wash was then brushed over the uniforms. This settled nicely in the deeper folds of the uniform.

The flesh base is a 50/50 mix of Vallejo Model Colour 70815 Basic Skintone and Panzer Aces 341 Flesh Base. The faces and hands received a Burnt Sienna oil wash followed by painting of highlights and details with Vallejo acrylics.

A topcoat of Alclad II Klear Kote Flat Lacquer sealed the paint job.

## CONCLUSION

I really enjoyed building Dragon's 1:35 scale Black Label Saladin Mk.2.

There are a number of surprising omissions and some chunky detail, but overall the model offers a fast build, perfect fit and an excellent base for further detailing or conversion.

I'll look forward to seeing what Dragon has in store as the next Black Label release. ■

The clear parts were fixed with Gator's Grip acrylic cement.



The new aerials are lengths of 0.33 mm Nickel Silver Rod, painted black.

A topcoat of Alclad II Klear Kote Flat Lacquer sealed the paint



Saladin in profile.



The taillights were treated to some Tamiya Clear Red and Clear Orange applied with a toothpick over a light grey base.

## Modelspec

Dragon Black Label 1:35 British Armoured Car  
Saladin Mk.2 Kit No. 3554

### Accessories Used:

Firestorm Item No. FS35060 - Australian APC Crew Vietnam  
Callsign Models Item No. CS35033 - Australian APC/Tank Officer  
Value Gear - 1:35 scale Set No. 6 (one pack for rear fender)  
Verlinden Item No. 341 - US Tank Periscopes WWII  
.30 cal mount from Tamiya M113A1 Fire Support Vehicle - Kit No. 107  
Fighting 48th! Decals - British Armoured Divisions, NEW, Set 6 (red diamonds).  
Microscale Decals Item No. 72-0026 - US I.D. Letters and Numbers Various Sizes (white Xs)  
Xtradecal Item No. X72129 - RAF Post-War Serial Letters & Numbers, White (four vertical stripes)  
Spares Box Decals Elements White Helvetica Style Letters and Numbers - Item No. SB0006 (letters and numbers for civilian number plates)

### Modelling Products & Tools:

Kneadatite Blue Yellow Epoxy Putty  
Evergreen Plastic Strip and Sheet  
Albion Alloys Item No. NSR2 M - 0.33 mm Nickel Silver Rod (6 pieces)  
Cotton Thread  
Olfa hobby knife  
Olfa Circle Cutter  
J's Work Chipping Effect Pen Set  
Revell Contacta Cement  
Tamiya Masking Tape  
Tamiya Extra Thin Liquid Cement  
Gunze Mr Dissolved Putty  
Tamiya Surface Primer

### Paints & Finishing Products:

**Vehicle**  
Tamiya Spray Can Grey Primer  
Tamiya Acrylics - X-26 Clear Orange; X-27 Clear Red; XF-1 Flat Black; XF-2 Flat White; XF-3 Flat Yellow; XF-60 Dark Yellow; XF-67 NATO Green; XF-78 Deck Tan.  
Vallejo Panzer Aces and Model Colour Acrylics - Various  
Gunze-Sangyo Mr Metal Colour 211 Chrome Silver; 214 Dark Iron  
Future Floor Polish  
Alclad II Klear Kote Flat  
Wilder NL02 - Deep Shadow Wash  
Maru Easy Mud - 21103 North Africa (Desert); 21105 European Earth  
**Figures**  
Flesh Base - 50/50 mix of Vallejo Model Colour 70815 Basic Skintone and Panzer Aces 341 Flesh Base  
Uniform Base - mix of Tamiya XF-11 J.N. Green and XF-57 Buff.  
**Detail Painting**  
Vallejo Model Colour Acrylics: 70862 Black Grey; 919 Foundation White;  
Vallejo Panzer Aces Acrylics: 337 Highlight Ger. (Black); 341 Flesh Base; 342 Highlights Flesh; 348 Splinter Strips

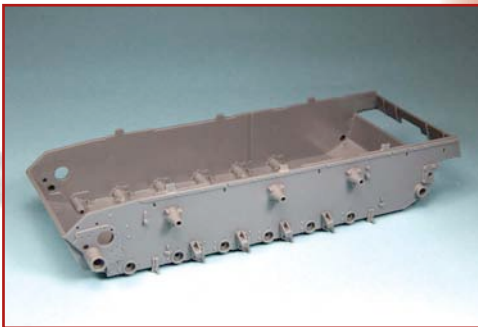
✓ Long awaited subject; nice surface details; accurate outline; perfect fit.

✗ Missing details (hatch interiors, exhaust piping, tow cables, .30 cal machine gun and mount, gun cover); some overscale or underdone detail.

### Available from

Dragon kits are distributed in the UK by  
The Hobby Company Limited [www.hobbyco.net](http://www.hobbyco.net)

Rating ●●●●●●○○



The one-piece lower hull.

# PANZER III M

Andy King examines the latest addition to Dragon's ever-growing Panzer III family.

**T**he Panzer III Ausf M as featured in this kit was produced between October 1942 and February 1943 and was armed with the 5cm KwK 39 L/60 gun. It had a crew of five, was powered by a Maybach HL120 TRM and capable of travelling at speeds up to 25 mph (40 kph) by road and 12 mph (20kph) across country.

Based on the 'L' chassis, the M model was designed for crossing rivers and the hull was basically waterproofed with equipment added including a modified exhaust system. Other differences included the removal of the rack of five smoke dischargers from the rear of the hull and new racks of three were mounted to the turret sides, the rear engine deck was extended for the new exhaust system, the crew escape hatches in the hull sides were deleted and inspection hatches on the front hull had the hinges relocated to the inside.

This is another outing for the 1:35 scale Panzer III Ausf. M that Dragon released a couple of years ago and is basically kit number 6558 but with the addition of 'shurtzen' (spaced armour) for the turret and hull sides. In the box you have sixteen sprues in grey styrene, two clear sprues, a sheet of etch, decals, a small amount of the original 'Magic' individual track links, DS Vinyl tracks and

metal 'shurtzen' plates. The kit is made up with sprues from earlier releases of the Panzer III, StuG III and Panzer IV and although it may look like a ridiculous amount of parts for one tank, most of these will end up in the spares box. Also be careful with the sprue lettering as there are three with 'A' on them and two with 'D' and 'G' so study the instructions before you start building the model.

All parts are well moulded with the usual high standard of detail that you get with Dragon but the price you pay for that detail is the amount of mould knock-out pins that are virtually on every part including the little ones and they can be tricky to remove and clean up.

One problem is that the etch sheet included does not match the one illustrated at the front of the instructions, most of the parts are there on the etch fret but you are missing a set of locking latches for the hinged parts of the turret shurtzen (MA14 and 15) and one of the upper hull details (MA4).

The tracks as stated above are the of the DS Vinyl type and for 'rubber band' tracks they are quite well detailed, unfortunately they have some flash present that will be tricky to remove and again due to the way they are packaged some of the guide horns are bent over and almost impossible to fix. I do wish Dragon would include the original 'Magic' individual links as it's easier to obtain track sag without resorting to techniques from years ago such as putting pins through the hull to force the rubber tracks into position. It's interesting to note that the instructions still show the 'Magic' tracks too.

The on-vehicle equipment have the tool clamps moulded on and they are a bit clunky, no doubt due to moulding limitations even for Dragon

so you can either thin them down with a scalpel or obtain aftermarket etch ones. The days of aluminium gun barrels included in Dragon kits are now long gone, only slide-moulded ones these days however this one doesn't look too bad. Save for a gun breech, an empty shell basket and some bits for the inside of the turret there is little else in the way of an interior for this or the hull so the aftermarket will be the place to go should you wish to add further details to these areas.

The decal sheet is well printed by Cartograph and you get seven marking options and paint schemes included, six of which are from Kursk in 1943 and one unidentified Panzer III in Sicily. Colours quoted are from the Mr Hobby and Model Master paint ranges only.

In conclusion, the Dragon Panzer IIIs are probably the best available at the moment and feature some really good detail. What frustrates me is that Dragon continue to include DS vinyl tracks that, time and again, are proving to be more trouble than they are worth due mainly to packaging problems. I will reiterate here that they should at the very least include the original 'Magic' tracks, especially for German and Soviet WWII armour as track sag was a major feature and difficult to reproduce with the vinyl ones. The inclusion of the wrong etch sheet is a bit sloppy and although it's not a huge problem it does seem like laziness on Dragon's behalf. With the high retail price I can't say I would be too happy with this and duff tracks.

However as I said before it is one of the best Panzer IIIs on the market and apart from the nitpicks I would still recommend it. ■

Thanks to The Hobby Company Limited for the review sample  
[www.hobbyco.net](http://www.hobbyco.net)



The gorgeous turret. Note the screw slot detail!



Road wheel detail, including subtle cast texture.



The return rollers are beautifully done too.



Tread plate texture.



The rear hull plate.



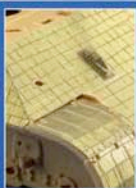
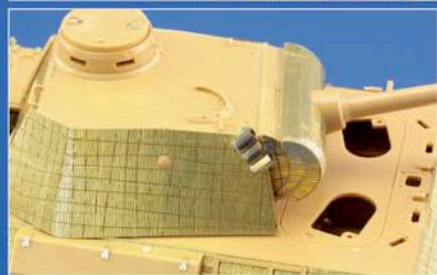
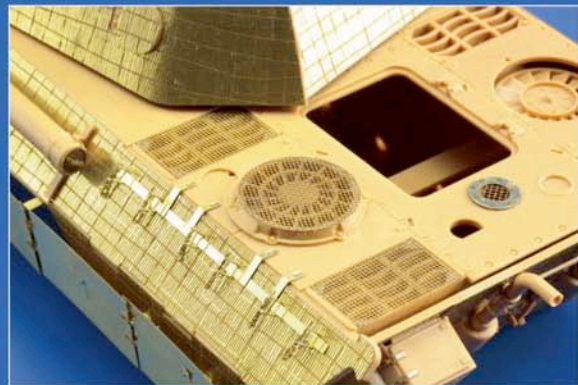
Dragon, please bring back individual link Magic Tracks!



This does not seem to be the specific photo-etched fret for this kit.



Kit supplied decals with seven marking options.



# photo-etched sets Pz.Kpfw.V Panther 1/35 Zvezda

36306 Pz.Kpfw.V Panther (Ausf.D)  
36307 Pz.Kpfw.V Panther (Ausf.D) Schürzen  
36308 Pz.Kpfw.V Panther (Ausf.D) Zimmerit

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# BERLIN, 20 APRIL 1945

José Brito creates a late-war Berlin scene using GWH's SWS half-track, Mini-Art's stairway and scratch-built base.

## CONSTRUCTION

The 1:35 scale 3.7cm Flak 43 auf Schwere Wehrmacht Schlepper from Great Wall Hobby is a typical product from this Chinese company.

The kit is presented in a medium size box with a lovely box-art. Once the box opened, we are presented with several plastic sprues, clear and concise instructions, top class decals, clear parts and two small photoetch sheets.

Construction is very straightforward. The plastic is top quality and the detail very fine and accurate. Only some minor cleaning is necessary and the construction process is a joy.



As usual, the building started with the running gear. The wheels were cleaned with a sandpaper stick and some wear and tear was applied with the help of a scalpel blade. Small details like this make a big difference once the model finished.



The running gear parts fit very well and only minor amount of glue is necessary. In this case I used Deluxe Materials Plastic Magic Glue. For the best results I use their Pin Magic applicator. Pin Magic applicator will allow an ultra-control, because the Plastic Magic Glue is ultra-thin. Being so thin, it is ideal to work as capillarity.



Several small parts were glued in place with the help of Deluxe Materials' Rocket Hot and Deluxe Materials Rocket Rapid. Being extra thin and super strong glues, are ideal to use as capillarity and reach the most difficult spots. The kit detail is lovely and no spot was forgotten. Even the underside has a huge amount of details.

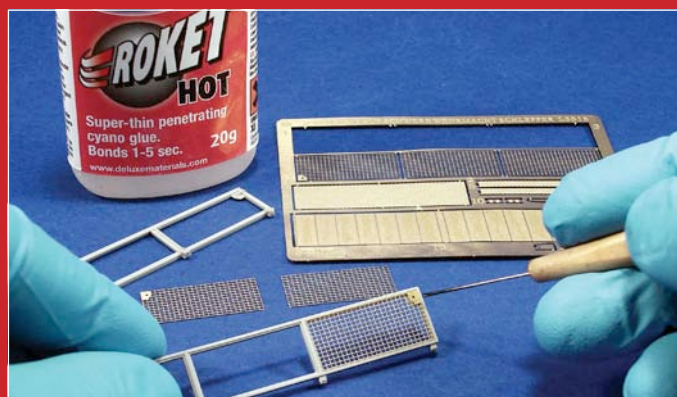


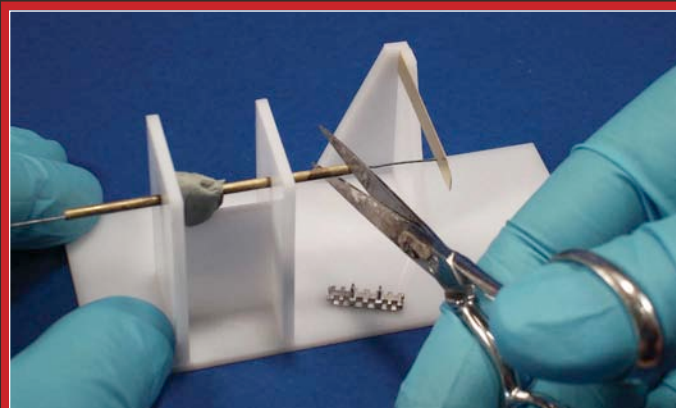
Photo-etched parts were also glued in the capillarity way. Always by using the Deluxe Materials Rocket Hot glue solution. Being ultra-thin glue, the flow is superb and the glue can easily reach the most difficult spots with a very clean look.



The individual track links provided by Great Wall Hobby are accurate and well detailed but they are no match for Friulmodel metal tracks. With Friulmodel tracks we can get the natural and ultra-realistic sag. How? Because we have something called gravity.



Assembling the Friulmodel tracks is a time consuming process. All the links must be individually prepared for the assembling. Personally I like to drill all the holes where the metal pin will be introduced.



A small jig is essential for this kind of job. This is a great help when it comes to cut all those small and equal size metal pins. A simple measure is necessary to define the length. All we need is to use a track as reference, and then adjust the size with some blue tack. Place the metal wire inside the tube and cut lots of them.



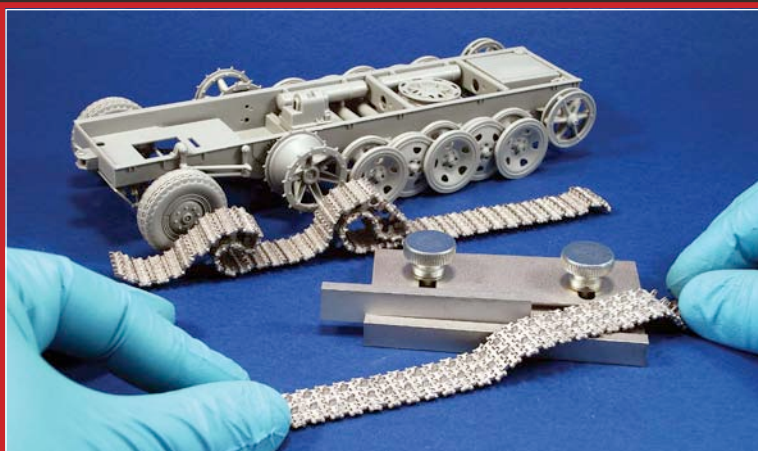
Mirror Models Track Link Tool is very useful when it comes to assembling individual track links. It's very well-engineered and can be used to assemble metallic, plastic or resin tracks. Several links are assembled in small segments and the metal pins are introduced in the right spots (like real I-I tracks).



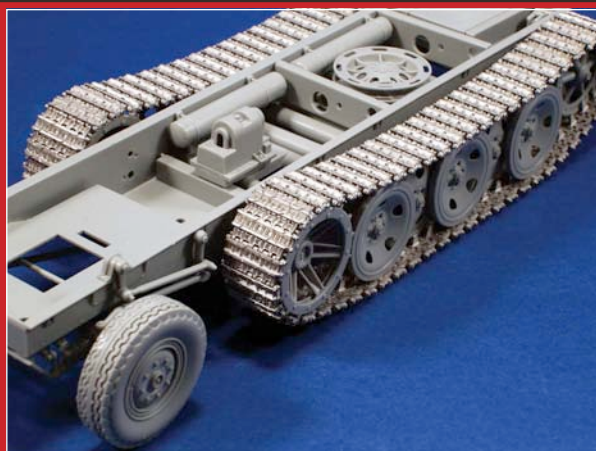
Once all the segments are connected, all we have to do is apply small drops of glue to keep everything in place. In this case I used the Deluxe Materials Rocket Rapid Glue. Being a thin and super strong glue, it is ideal to use as capillary and reach the most difficult track spots.



With the help of pliers, all we have to do is cut the excess of the metal pin. The tracks are fully workable and can be placed in every position.



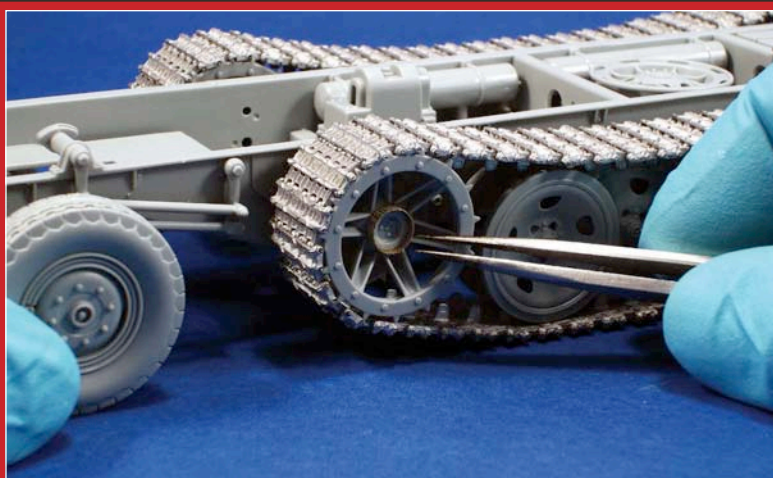
Once in place, they look absolutely stunning and accurate.



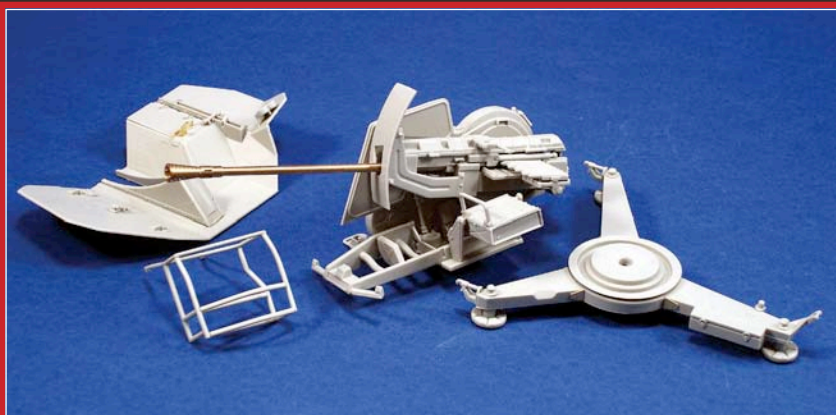
The sag is just as real as it can get.



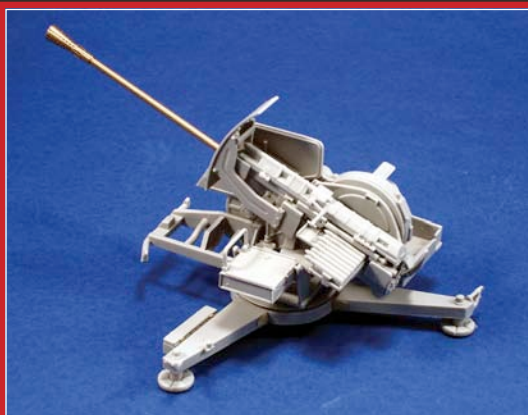
Great Wall Hobby kit provides two very complete photo-etch sheets and with parts covering the entire model. They will improve and add an extra touch of detail. To get the best results from the photo-etch parts, I use tools from the Small Shop range. They make this task very easy and are really time savers.



The metal parts fit is outstanding and once again are glued in place with the help of Deluxe Materials Rocket Hot glue solution. Once again, taking the best of this glue flow properties.



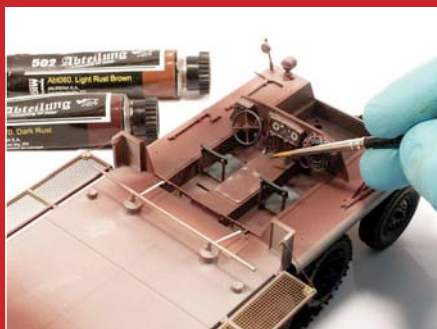
The Flak gun is a kit inside the kit and, like the rest of the model, was built in sub-assemblies. This will turn the construction process easier as also the painting process. The metal gun barrel is an aftermarket from Great Wall Hobby and adds an extra touch of accuracy to the model.



The detail of this flak is lovely and very accurate. Soon it is ready for painting.

## PAINTING

All the extra work and details really improve the model final look. The combination of plastic, photo-etch and scratch work really worth all the effort.



The lower parts of the model were primed in Vallejo 73602 Black Primer. The primer must be applied in several layers in order to keep the fine surface detail. Once well dry it's rock hard and extremely smooth. The primer was applied in the subassemblies in order to reach the most hidden places.



The interior parts were primed in Vallejo 73605 German Red Brown.



All the interior details were painted in Vallejo acrylics and then weathered with MIG Productions washes and oils.



For the best results and a better control, the washes can be thinned in MIG Productions Thinner for Washes and the oils can be thinned in MIG productions Odourless turpentine.



The interior was protected with the help of MIG Productions Liquid Mask. The best approach is filling the interior with soft sponge and tissue paper. Once the interior was filled, we can close the small gaps with MIG Productions Liquid Mask. The interior is now fully sealed and the exterior painting process can begin.



The entire model was airbrushed in Vallejo 73602 Black Primer and Vallejo 73605 German Red Brown. Some parts were primed in black and others were primed in red brown. The combination of these two colours will lend more visual interest to our model once fully painted and weathered.

### AFV PAINTING SYSTEM Dunkelgelb German Dark Yellow

Airbrush colors for graded highlights, shadows and volumes.  
Colores para aerografía para graduaciones de luces, sombras y volúmenes

AV  
vallejo

Vallejo acrylics Dunkelgelb German Dark Yellow set were used for the base colours. Now the model is ready for the zenith Painting Technique.



Using the Zenith Painting Technique, the light effects are accurately represented on the model. Colours must be airbrushed in heavily thinned and consecutive layers.



With this technique the model is exposed to the light and the paint is applied in the same fashion as if the model was exposed under a spot light. The colour transitions are ultra-smooth and the model have a higher visual interest.



For this task I used the Vallejo acrylics Dunkelgelb German Dark Yellow set. The camouflage pattern was airbrushed in Vallejo Model Air 71041 Tank Brown and Vallejo Model Air 71022 Camouflage Green. The pattern must be airbrushed in several layers and with the paint very well thinned, in order to keep the scale factor and colour balance.



Some scratches were applied with the help of a small sponge and with Vallejo Model Color 822 SS Camouflage Black Brown. The scratches must be applied in the correct spots in order to keep the accuracy. We can easily overdo this process, so some care is necessary and we must pay attention. At this stage, several details were brush painted in Vallejo Model Color.



Before starting the final weathering and finishing, we must apply the decals. In order to turn the surface smooth, the spots were brushed in in Vallejo Gloss Varnish 27650.



As usual with the decal placing process, I use the new MIG Productions decal solutions. The MIG Productions Decal Set and the MIG Productions Decal Softener. In the desired spot we apply a small quantity of MIG Productions Decal Set. This formula will increase the decal adhesion into the model surface.



The decals were cut from the sheet with the help of a brand new scalpel. Great Wall Hobby decals are crisply printed and do not have flash.



The decal is submerged into water and all we have to do is wait a few minutes until the decal peel from the underlay sheet.



The decal is gently transferred to the desired spot with the help of a tweezers. The excess of water is removed with the help of a cotton bud. In this stage we can also make some corrections to the decal position.

## WEATHERING AND FINISHING

With all the decals in place, the model is ready for weathering and finishing. Before the weathering and finishing, the models only look like super toys, but very soon this is about to change.



The colour variation was achieved by applying several others oil colours from MIG Productions. In this case the colours applied were MIG Productions Buff and MIG Productions Cream Brown for German Yellow. Those colours must be applied heavily thinned with MIG Productions Odourless Turpentine.



MIG Productions' oil colour Shadow Brown and MIG Productions oil colour Industrial Earth were applied in the running gear and overall tracks. Both colours will add an extra variety to this part of the model.



MIG Productions oil colour Primer Red and MIG Productions oil colour Light Rust Brown were applied over the parts painted previously in red primer. Once again, the idea is to add lots of colour variation to our model.



Some other parts, painted in red primer, also received treatment in MIG Productions oil colour Fresh Shadow and MIG Productions oil colour Primer Red. The red primer parts also received a well-thinned layer of several MIG Productions wash solutions. In this case, the colours applied were MIG Productions wash colour Extreme Rust, Standard Rust Effects and Light Rust Effects.



MIG Productions' Dark Wash was applied into the recessed parts. It must be applied with the help of a very fine brush. For the best results and a better control, the wash can be thinned in MIG Productions Thinner for Washes.



A heavily-thinned layer of MIG Productions Mud Splash Wash was also applied in the rear cargo door, in this case with the help of a flat brush and gently sprinkled. This process must be done in several steps in order to achieve the best results.



MIG Productions Earth Wash and Wood Ageing Solution Wash were applied over several details and in order to blend them to the surrounding areas. Those colours will act as "neutral" filters and will be very important to the final colour composition achievement.



At this stage, the model is ready for pigments.



The dusty look was achieved with MIG Productions' pigments. Several colours must be used in order to get a more realistic look. In the meantime we must take care that the colours are accurate and in the right spots. Also, we must not overdo this process; otherwise our model will look inaccurate and unrealistic.



The pigments were fixed in place with the help of MIG Productions Pigment Fixer and MIG Productions Thinner for Washes. All we have to do is apply, by brush, several drops over the pigments and let to dry untouched. During this process the model will turn very dark and it seems that the pigments disappear, but once the fixer and thinner evaporates the pigments will appear again and they will look very natural and realistic.

## BASE AND DIORAMA

I'm a diorama builder and the first step is making some simple composition. For a better dynamic setting, the elements must be placed in a dynamic way and according invisible diagonal lines. We must avoid at all cost placing elements parallel to the sides of the base.

As usual I used a wood base and make the sidewalls in balsa wood. This will form a box and the volume will add an extra touch of interest to the base and piece. The balsa walls

were glued to the wood base with the help of Deluxe Materials Rocket Hot and Rocket Rapid. The bond is super strong and soon the box is ready to be filled.

The interior was filled in heat isolation foam. This foam is cheap, easy to find and easy to work. Also, is lightweight and ideal to fill big volumes.

The foam was glued to the wood base with the help of Deluxe Materials Tacky Glue.

Several layers of Deluxe Materials Foam Armour were applied in order to give an extra strength to the foam. Once completely dry, it's really hard and will protect the underlay foam.

A simple sketch was made over the base. This is just to define the final position of every element. We must spend some time on this process. This will define the final look of our diorama.



With the help of a knife, a simple crater was carved in the foam and some plastic pipes were placed in it. This will add a point of interest to our diorama and will fill all those "dead spots".



During the base construction we must keep doing some planning and adjusting the element's final position. The destroyed metallic structure is in his final position and the vehicle position is marked. Always work under the "invisible" diagonal line.



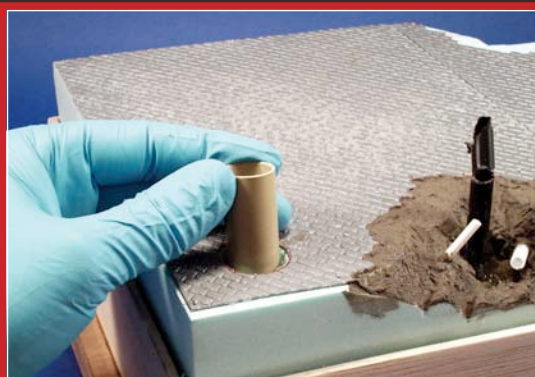
MiniArt kit Cobblestoned Section, Item No. 36043, is a lovely set and a great value of money. The detail is lovely and the paved street really accurate. The plastic plates were glued into the foam with the help of Deluxe Materials Tacky Glue and let it dry for about 2 days.



At the same time MIG Productions Europe Wet Mud, Fine Texture ref. P502 was applied all over the craters. This is an acrylic paste and can be thinned in water. Once well dry, it will look really nice and with a very convincing look. The final texture is really fine and scale spot on.



A small drain hole was cut with the help of a Royal Model metal stencil. Once cut, the underneath foam was carved in order to make a deep hole.



A small portion of a plastic tube was cut and inserted in the foam. This is a simple detail, but will make a big difference in the final diorama. It will add interest and accuracy to our work.



A mix of ceramic bricks and cobblestones from Royal Model, fine sand, balsa wood and small rocks was made and applied in the craters.



The same mix was applied over the destroyed metallic structure and glued into place with the help of Deluxe Materials Tacky Glue heavily thinned in water.

## THE STAIRWAY

The metallic stairway is a MiniArt item, "Pedestrian Bridge" item no. 35522. It's a lovely piece with great potential. The kit is huge and with a large number of pieces. In this project I only used a small part of the kit. The remaining parts will be used in another future project.



The metallic stairway was primed in Vallejo 73602 Black Primer. The primer must be applied in several layers in order to keep the fine surface detail. Once well dry it's rock hard and extremely smooth.

Once the Vallejo 73602 Black Primer was dry, a heavily thinned layer of Vallejo 73611 IJA Tsuchi-Kusa-Iro Earth Green Primer and Vallejo 73600 White Primer was applied. This formed the base colour of the metallic structure.



Once the previous colours well dry, the debris areas received a heavily thinned coat of Vallejo 73603 German Panzer Grey Primer.

## DEBRIS



The debris mix was applied over the base and glued into place with the help of Deluxe Materials Rocket Hot glue, taking the best advantage of his capillarity properties. The result is just great and the chaos looks very effective.



Once the debris well glued in place, the entire base was primed in Vallejo 74601 Grey Primer. This unifies all the elements and will also be a good base for the painting and weathering process.



Once the Vallejo 74601 Grey Primer had dried, the cobblestone areas were dry brushed in Vallejo Model Color 70994 Dark Grey. This will be the base colour of the paved street.



The cobblestones were painted one-by-one in Vallejo Model Color. Several grey and white colours were used. This is a time consuming process, but need to be done... The final result is very convincing and visually interesting. The debris areas were painted in Vallejo RAL800 German Green Brown.



For the paste between the cobblestones, a paste of MIG Productions Buff oil colour was randomly applied. It can be mixed in MIG Productions Odourless Turpentine for a better flow.



Let it dry for about one hour and then just remove the excess with tissue paper, slightly moistened in MIG Productions Odourless Turpentine.



The base is practically finished and ready to receive the vehicle and figures. Look how the display under the "invisible" diagonal line makes all the difference when it comes to composition. The scene looks much more dynamic when compared to a scene where the elements are displayed parallel to the base sides.

## FIGURES

I always add figures to my dioramas. Besides the human factor and scale, they can also tell a story.

All the figures for the project came from Aurora Models. They are sculpted by the extremely talented Japanese modeller Kiyoshi Tsuda.

They are made in white metal and the casting is flawless. Only some minor cleaning is necessary and soon we can start painting them.



Once assembled, the figures were primed in Vallejo 74601 Grey Primer, as usual applied thin in order to keep the surface detail. The basic display layout is tested at this stage. Look how the figures are displayed under an "invisible" pyramid. Once the Vallejo 74601 Grey Primer well dry, the figures were once again primed in Vallejo 73602 Black Primer.



Once the primers had dried, the figures were painted in Vallejo Model Color, except the flesh tones that were painted in oils from the MIG Productions range.



Small details were picked in MIG Productions Dark Wash very well thinned in MIG Productions Thinner for Washes. This must be applied only in the most recessed parts. The dusty look was achieved by applying MIG Productions pigments and then fix them with the help of MIG Productions Pigment Fixer.



Soon, the figures were finished and ready to be placed in the diorama.

## CONCLUSION

This was a very enjoyable project and the opportunity to add another diorama to my portfolio.

The SWS from Great Wall Hobby is a more than recommended kit.

The quality is outstanding and the possibilities are huge.

The Aurora Models figures are a must have. They are extremely well sculpted, original and accurate.

MiniArt kits always make a big difference in the diorama panorama and are always a presence in my projects.

Hope you like it. Be safe! ■



## Modelspec

Great Wall Hobby 1:35 3.7cm Flak 43 auf Schwere Wehrmacht Schlepper Kit No. L3516

### Accessories Used

1:35 Miniart, Pedestrian Bridge - Item 35522  
1:35 Miniart, Cobblestone Section - Item 36043  
1:35 Aurora Models figures- Items MI029, MI030, MI031, MI032, MI033 and MI034

### Materials and paints used

Hood glue  
Deluxe Materials glue and special effects solutions  
Heat isolation foam  
Wood base  
Injected plastic  
Resin parts  
Plastic card  
Metal parts  
Vallejo primers, acrylics and thinners  
MIG Productions oils, washes, pigments, filters and thinners  
Graphite soft pencil

### References used

Several internet sites and forums

- ☒ Unusual subject and very original figures from Aurora Models
- ☒ Nothing worth mentioning

### Available from

GWH kits are available online and from hobby shops worldwide.

Rating ●●●●●●●●○



# UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

Graham Tetley takes a close look at ICM's 1:35 Renault AHN Lastkratwagen.

ICM keeps on churning out these truck kits with the latest being the Renault AHN.

According to the history on the box, production began in 1941 under the German administration and the 4000 trucks produced served on all fronts up to the war's end.

The level of detail that ICM is putting in their kits now is very good and this kit is no exception. What we have in the box here are 178 parts on nine sprues, including clear parts for the windows and eight soft rubber tyres. Everything is well molded however there is some flash in a few areas. Whilst there are some seam lines and knock out marks these are easily cleaned and not in places where they will be too noticeable. Detail throughout is superb with some parts being very delicately moulded - worthy of note are the embossed diamond-shaped patterns on the cargo bed sides. Although the box art clearly shows the 'RENAULT' badge on the grille, that is neither moulded onto the part or a decal supplied. Annoying, but no biggie.

In typical ICM fashion we get a multi-piece chassis and the construction of this kicks off the assembly. Be careful in assembly and make sure that it is all straight and true. A detailed engine follows which you can display by either leaving off the front grille or simply not fixing the cab to the chassis. All of the gear linkages, leaf springs and underside are fully detailed and

whilst the front suspension isn't positionable it doesn't really detract from the kit.

We have soft vinyl tyres and the tread detail is actually quite good. A spare is provided which is stowed on a really flimsy rack. Be careful here as the rack parts A89 & 90 are attached to the sprues at four points and my Part 90 had already broken in the box.

## CAB & CARGO BED

Sorry, I have to say it - this is just so slab sided and ugly! Despite it not winning any beauty contests, it is well moulded and packs some gorgeous detail. All of the driver's controls are there and ICM give us separate door and window handles. With a bit of surgery you can modify the kit parts and show the door windows down if you wish. A simple control panel is then added and you get a decal for the single gauge.

We finish off with the cargo bed. This is made up from a lattice structure that has been expertly captured. Six crossbeams attach to two central rails which then have an outer frame added to them. I can foresee this being a nightmare to assemble so I recommend that you fix two crossbeams to the cargo bed floor (the attachment points are very good) then build the rest around it. The sides are all individual pieces and not designed to fold down, but with a bit of basic surgery and filling you can show them lowered if you so wish.

Whilst no tarpaulin is provided,

we do get in the kit the supports for it. Beautifully molded in one curved piece, four rails attach to the top and then it all sits on the cargo bed sides Parts B1 & 13. The option is there to make your own tarpaulin or just wait to see if a resin company fills the gap.

## DECALS AND INSTRUCTIONS

Marking options are limited to two vehicles - Italy 1943 and France 1944. For me, a highlight of ICM kits is the instructions and this kit is no different, with everything being clearly drawn and uncluttered. There are no errors that I found and don't let the 76 (yes, 76!!!) construction steps put you off as most only deal with the addition of a 2 or 3 parts.

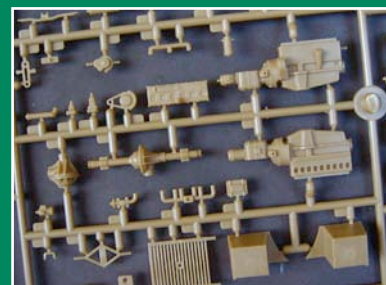
## CONCLUSIONS

This ICM kit is very nice and will build into a fine model with scope for extra detailing. It is the only version currently available in plastic, in 1/35th, so enjoy it. ICM have packed lots of detail into it (especially the chassis and cargo bed), then topped it all off with clear instructions and a very respectable retail price. Out of the box it will be a fine little replica that will also give the super-detailers something to get their teeth into. I have a few little niggles, but overall it gets a 'Recommended With Thumbs Up' and a very respectable 9/10 from me. ■

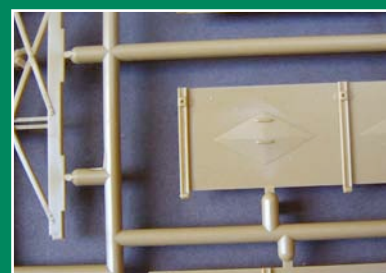
Thanks to ICM for the sample  
[www.icm.ua](http://www.icm.ua)



Wheel hubs and brake drums.



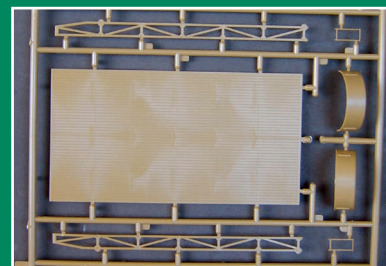
Lots of yummy detail.



Diamond pattern on the cargo bed sides.



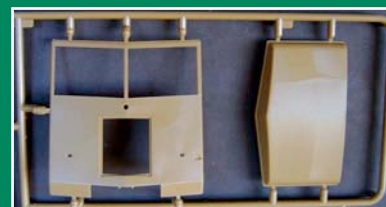
Decal options.



Cargo bed sprues.



Close up of the cargo bed's girder structure.

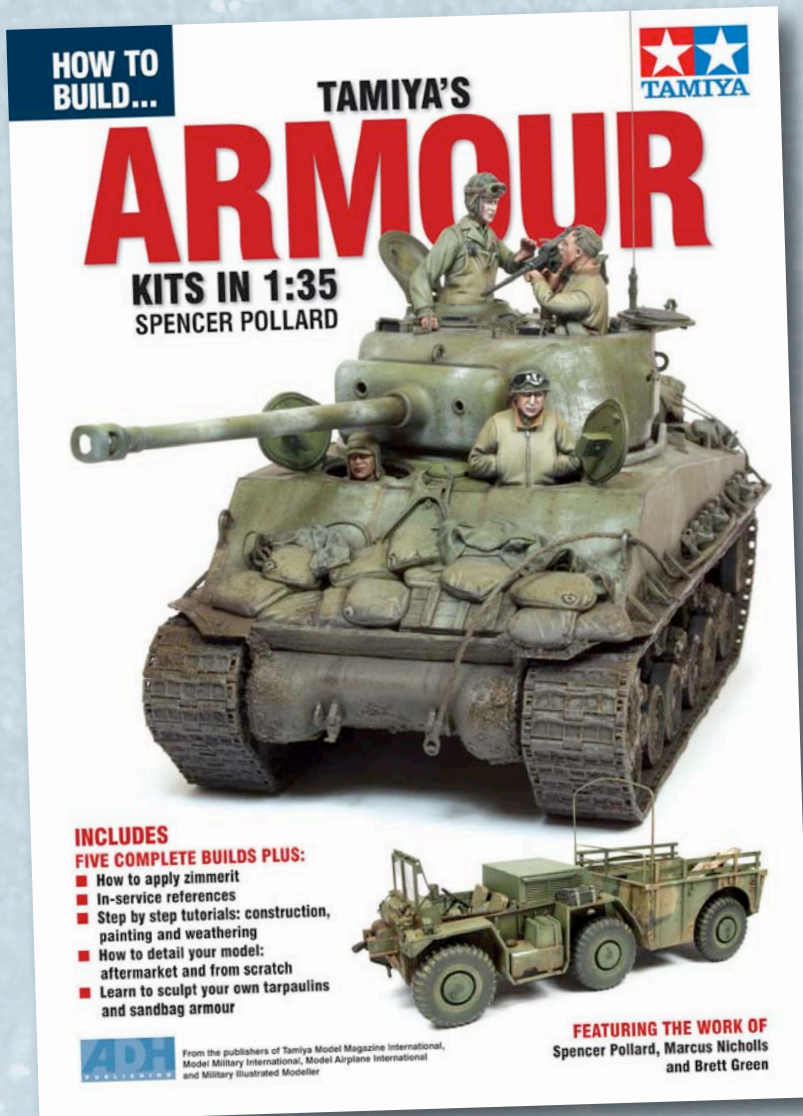


Cab front and roof.



Tyre tread detail.

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# THE ICON

**Kamil Feliks Sztarbala** scratch builds one of Hollywood's most famous screen sirens when entertaining troops in Korea.



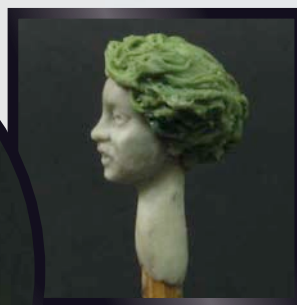
In February 1954, Marilyn Monroe and Joe DiMaggio were newlyweds on a trip in Japan, when the bride took a detour to Korea to entertain the troops. She performed ten shows in four days, in front of audiences that totalled more than 100,000 soldiers and Marines. Later, Monroe recalled that the trip was the best thing that ever happened to her. I decided to make a small tribute to this story.

## MARILYN

I began with the hardest task, i.e. sculpting Marilyn's head; and quickly realised how difficult a subject I had chosen to depict. The fact that most photos show her with makeup made things even harder.



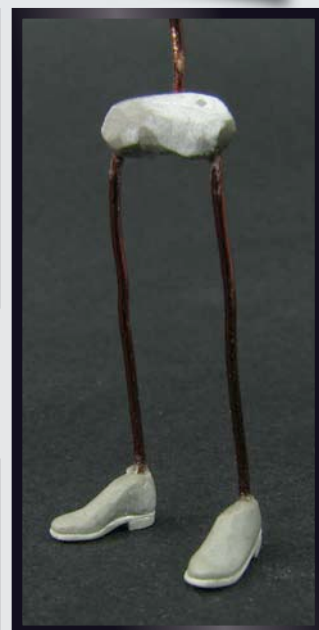
After a few days of adding, removing and reworking various details, the head was almost ready.



Once I had redesigned the forehead and lips, and had added some hair, I decided that there wasn't any scope for further improvement. Worth noting is that the mixture of Magic Sculp and Green Stuff is the best material for creating hair.



Now I could focus on the remaining parts of the body. I started by forming the rough base shapes of the torso, groin area and boots from small blocks of leftover putty. All parts were connected with copper wire.



The basic shape of the boots was created with a scalpel blade and diamond files. I also added the soles, made from fresh Magic Sculp putty.



At this stage, I had to assemble the vehicle body. This allowed me to determine the pose of the mannequin.



I then fixed the pose by encapsulating the wire skeleton with small amount of putty.



As the resulting body was much thinner than a real naked body, I could easily sculpt the clothes and their folds. Little by little, I added the subsequent parts of the outfit. Firstly, I created the final shape and detail of the boots, using Green Stuff and a mixture of Green Stuff and Magic Sculp. Next, I built up the trousers.



Since I had to frequently check if the figure properly fitted the vehicle, I formed each trouser leg separately.



Afterwards, I fixed the head and sculpted the neck.



The process of building up the shirt also had to be carried out in gradual stages. I began by creating the back, and then progressively added the left and right side of the shirt's front.



A slightly standing-up collar was formed from a mixture of Magic Sculp and Green Stuff.



To reproduce the pockets, I fitted small amounts of putty to the shirt surface, and shaped them with a scalpel blade.



As sculpting the left hand directly onto the windshield of the vehicle would be inconvenient, I used a piece of foam PVC sheet as a temporary substitute.



With a scalpel blade, I cut out the excess putty and gave the basic shape to the hand.



Next, I shaped the fingers and other details.



Once the putty had fully cured, I gave the final shape to the hand by smoothing it with very fine sandpaper and diamond files.



Again, to fix the position of the arm, I wrapped the wire with small amount of putty.



The process of sculpting the left sleeve was quite complicated, as I had to fit it to the windshield.



I thought that Marilyn should hold something in her right hand. My choice was a flying jacket. Firstly, I built up the rough shape of a clenched hand, and put the frame of the jacket inside it. The latter was made from a length of wire.

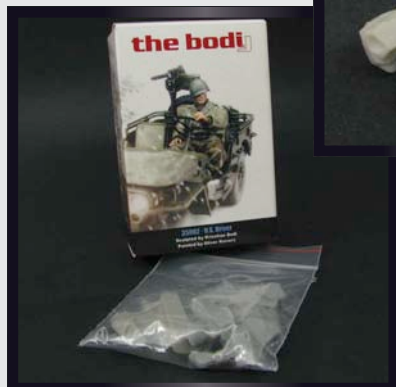
I formed the jacket by adding small amounts of putty, little by little. During this process, I had to check the fit several times, as the lower part of the jacket had to lean against the seat.



The fur texture of the collar was imprinted into the surface with a diamond wheel point bit.

Finally, I gently smoothed the surface of the entire figure with steel wool, and added the buttons.

## DRIVER



Miss Monroe still needed a chauffeur. For this purpose, I decided to use a resin U.S. Driver from The Bodi. Of course, it required some modification. I not only had to adjust the figure to the vehicle, but also change the headgear and boots.



To adapt the driver to the seat, I sanded both the seating and the bottom of the figure.



The original boots were replaced with Mickey Mouse boots, cut out from a DML figure.



I also sculpted the army pile cap.



Both figures were temporarily attached to wine corks for the painting stage. My first step was to prime them in grey.



To make further shading easier, I sprayed some white paint from above, and black paint from below, onto the figures.



Marilyn's face was painted with bright tones from AK-Interactive AK3010 "Flesh and Skin Colors Set". The final highlights were added with Vallejo 70815 "Basic Skintone".



Initially, I used Ammo-Mig 093 "Crystal Clear Red" for the lips, but the colour turned out to be too vivid. Therefore, I toned it down with a few transparent layers of AK3012 "Light Flesh".



The face and hands of the driver were finished with colours from the AK3010 set.



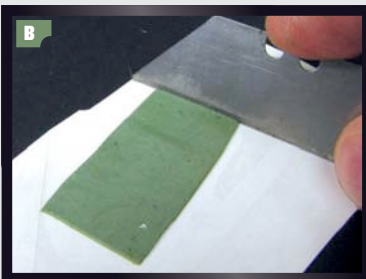
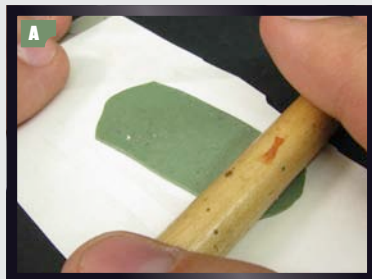
I then painted the clothes, using various greenish tones from the Lifecolor CSII "U.S. Olive Drab Set".



The paintwork was sealed with matte varnish.

## ACCESSORIES

Although the M38A1 is a relatively small vehicle, if I left the rear area empty, it would be conspicuous. Therefore, I decided to scratch build some odds and ends.



- A.** The first addition was to be a rolled canvas. To make it, I mixed some Magic Sculp with Green Stuff, and rolled out this mixture on a piece of waxed release liner from a sticker sheet.
- B.** The resulting "slice" of putty was given a rectangular shape with a hobby knife blade.
- C.** Next, I rolled it and placed it on the wheel well cover.
- D.** I then shaped the folds with the same tools that I used for the figure sculpting.
- E.** Once the putty had fully cured, I added the straps.



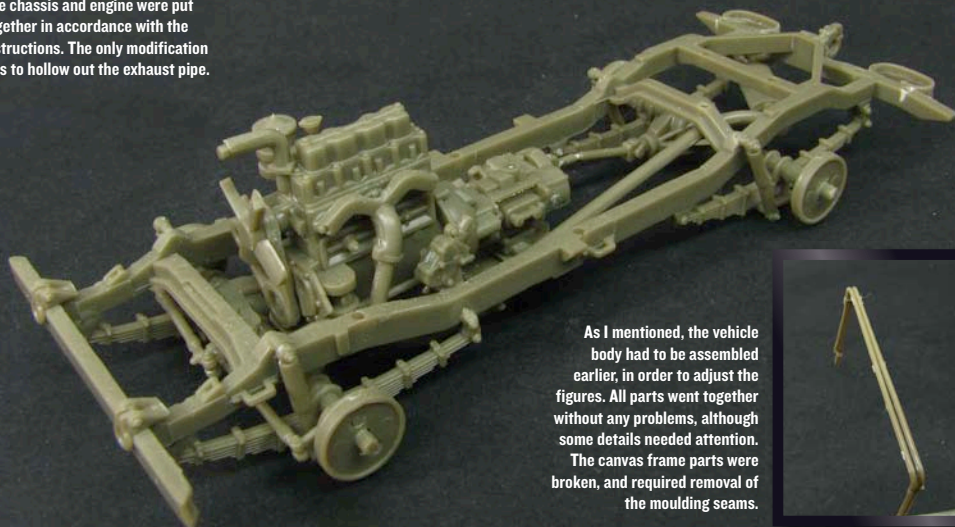
- F.** Marilyn certainly would have some luggage, so I also had to conjure up a large suitcase. My first step was to cut a block of foam PVC to the correct size and shape, and wrap its sides with a length of styrene strip.
- G.** Afterwards, I glued pieces of 0.25 mm styrene sheet to the top and bottom of the suitcase, cut out the excess edges, and smoothed them with sandpaper.
- H.** The handle was formed from tin wire, whilst the remaining details were made from various pieces of styrene strip.
- I.** The suitcase received a base coat of Mr. Color C72 Intermediate Blue. I then airbrushed a chequered pattern of Mr. Hobby H370 Azure Blue, using a piece of net curtain as a mask.
- J.** This was followed by brush painting the details and applying a subtle wash.



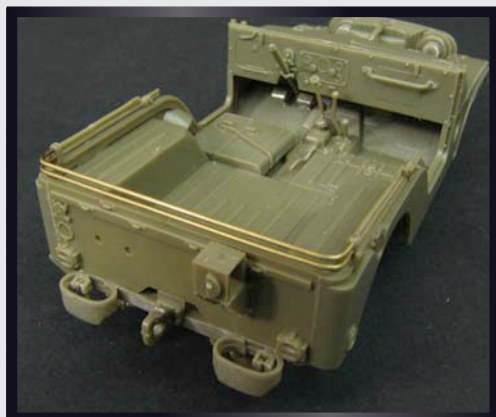
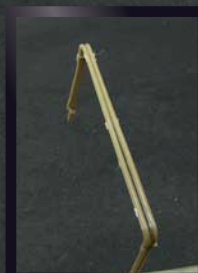
## MARILYN'S LIMOUSINE

Even though the AFV Club's 1:35 M38A1 is quite an old kit, its quality is equal to many recent releases. The details are reproduced so finely that you don't need to look for any photo-etched improvements. Therefore, I built the kit basically straight from the box, with the addition of just a few scratch built details.

The chassis and engine were put together in accordance with the instructions. The only modification was to hollow out the exhaust pipe.



As I mentioned, the vehicle body had to be assembled earlier, in order to adjust the figures. All parts went together without any problems, although some details needed attention. The canvas frame parts were broken, and required removal of the moulding seams.

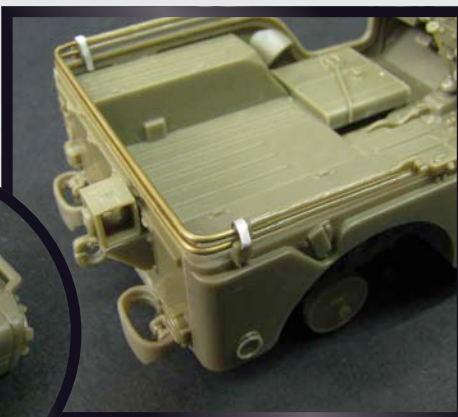


I thought that replacing the latter with brass wiring would be a painless solution.



RB Productions' Parallel Scribe-R was a perfect tool for recreating the seams of the jerry can halves.

As the plastic mounting strap didn't look convincing, I made a replacement part from a piece of aluminium foil.



The latter material was also used to reproduce the fasteners on the canvas frame.



The electrical wiring of the wipers was created from 0.4 mm tin wire.



As the headlight covers from the kit were too thick, I scratch built their replacements from pieces of 0.25 mm styrene strip.



To obtain the effect of slightly weighted wheels, I gently sanded the tires.



Finally, I mounted the clear parts into the windshield frame, and masked them with Tamiya tape. The kit was ready for painting.



Firstly, I primed it with Tamiya XF-1 Flat Black.



Next, I airbrushed a base coat of Tamiya XF-62 Olive Drab in such a way that the black primer still showed through it in various corners.



For initial highlights and colour modulation, I used Mr. Hobby H52 Olive Drab, which is brighter than Tamiya's paint.



To add stronger highlights to some chosen surfaces and details, I prepared a heavily diluted mixture of Mr. Hobby H52 Olive Drab, and Mr. Color C13 Neutral Grey.



The white star was sprayed onto the bonnet using a home-made mask, whilst the remaining markings came from kit's decals. I only had to change the sequence of digits of the vehicle number.



It was time for the wash. I applied dense Van Dyke Brown oil paint straight onto the kit's surface.



Before it fully dried, I removed the excess with a paper towel and cotton buds.



By using the oil paint, I obtained a satin finish on the car's body.



Now I had to paint the lights and retro-reflectors. The latter were finished by applying small drops of Ammo-Mig 093 "Crystal Clear Red" over a silver base coat.



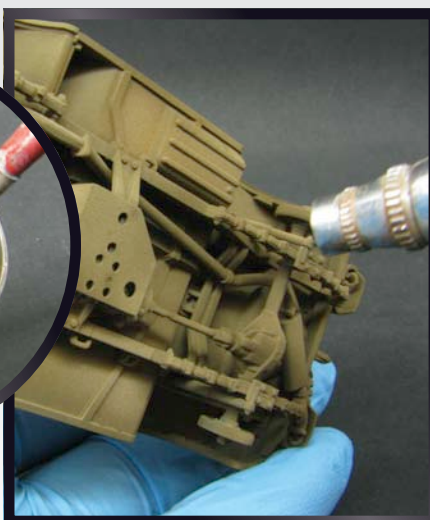
I then mounted various details and self-made accessories. Only the wheels were still left separate for the weathering stage.



Since this M38A1 wasn't a combat vehicle, the wear and tear had to be limited to recreating dust and a small amount of mud on the lower surfaces. I started by applying pigments. For this purpose, I poured two pigments; ie. AK-interactive AK042 "European Earth" and Ammo-Mig 3007 "Dark Earth", into the airbrush cup.



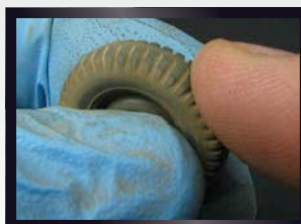
Next, I added some isopropyl alcohol, and thoroughly mixed all ingredients.



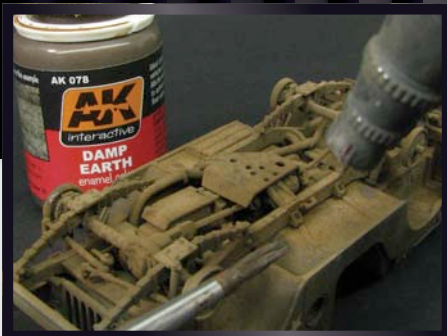
The mixture was airbrushed onto the lower surfaces of the kit...



...as well as over the entire wheels. I removed the excess pigments from the latter with a stiff bristle brush...



...and additionally rubbed it from the tire tread with a dry finger. This way I almost fully removed the pigments from these surfaces.



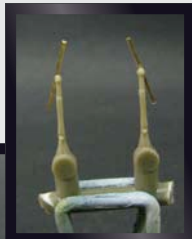
I then reproduced small lumps of wet mud by blowing off a little AK078 "Damp Earth" enamel, collected with a brush.



A small quantity of dirt inside the vehicle was recreated using Tamiya Weathering Sticks "Mud" and "Sand". I mixed these compounds with water in various ratios, and applied with an old paint brush.



At this stage, I could place the driver. I did this prior to attaching the windshield, as the latter would make this task more difficult.



Speaking of the windshield, once I'd removed the masking tape, I had to mount the wipers. I slightly improved the kit parts with small pieces of metal...



...and then glued the complete windshield to the vehicle.



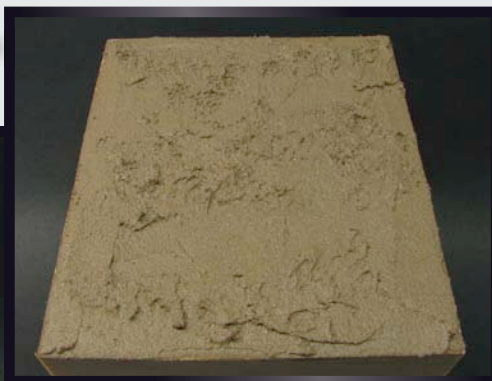
Now I could add the wheels and, of course, the MM figure.

## THE BASE

The vehicle still required at least a small base. I decided to reproduce a length of dirt road. Firstly, I formed a box structure from pieces of balsa wood.



I cut the sidewalls to the proper height, and glued a piece of 40 mm styrodur foam within the box.



The surface was covered with a mixture of wall tile adhesive, and the very same pigments that were previously used for weathering the M38.



Next, I poured the ground, using a mixture of silica sand and the aforementioned pigments. This allowed me to create some ruts and other irregularities on the surface, as well as imprint the wheel tracks.



To give the ground a more natural appearance, I used the pigments again. I distributed them over the fully cured surface...



...and sealed with AK048 Pigment Fixer.



I then created more contrast and diversity to the effects used on the base, by applying small quantities of diluted AK017 "Earth Effects" enamel.



The M38 was glued to the base with two-part epoxy adhesive.



The final task was to re-touch the ground, where it merged with the wheels.

# TINY TANK DESTROYER

Chris Wauchop takes a step back in time to show us his small-scale Su-76i

**T**he SU-76 (Samokhodnaya Ustanovka 76) was a Soviet self-propelled gun used during and after World War II. The SU-76 was based on a lengthened and widened version of the T-70 light tank chassis. Its simple construction made it the second most produced Soviet armoured vehicle of World War II, after the T-34 tank.

Crews liked the vehicle for its simplicity, reliability, and ease of use. However, the steering was also sometimes regarded as cumbersome.

The SU-76M combined three main battlefield roles: light assault gun, mobile anti-tank weapon

and mobile gun for indirect fire. As a light assault gun, the SU-76M was well regarded by Soviet infantrymen. It had more powerful weapons than any previous light tank for close support and communication between infantry and the SU-76M crew was simple due to the open crew compartment. This was extremely useful in urban combat where good teamwork between infantry and AFVs was a key to success.

## CHRIS'S 1:72 SU-76M

Here is UM's 1/72 scale Su-76m Soviet Tank Destroyer. Chris Wauchop was asked to build this as one of several small-scale armour

commissions.

The model was simple and quick to build and paint, and received very little extra detail.

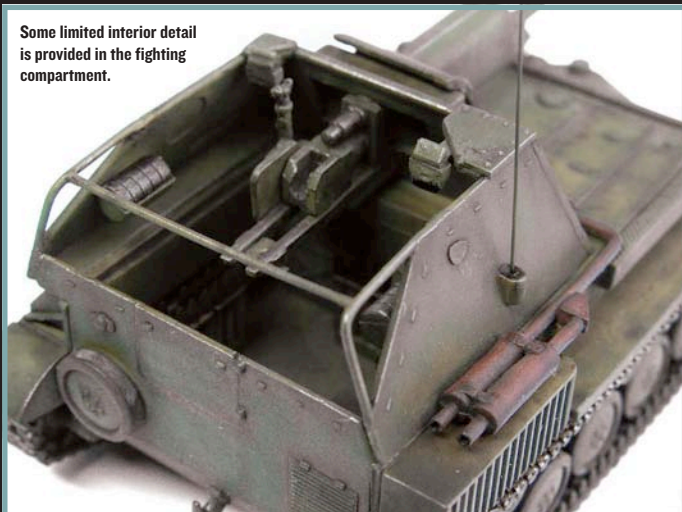
Paint was Tamiya acrylic XF-58 Olive Green mixed with Flat Yellow in approximately equal parts, weathered with XF-52 Flat Earth and XF-59 Desert Yellow. The model was also shaded and streaked with Chis's customary thin mix of XF-54 Red Brown and XF-1 Black.

All paints were applied with the Testor Aztek A470 airbrush.

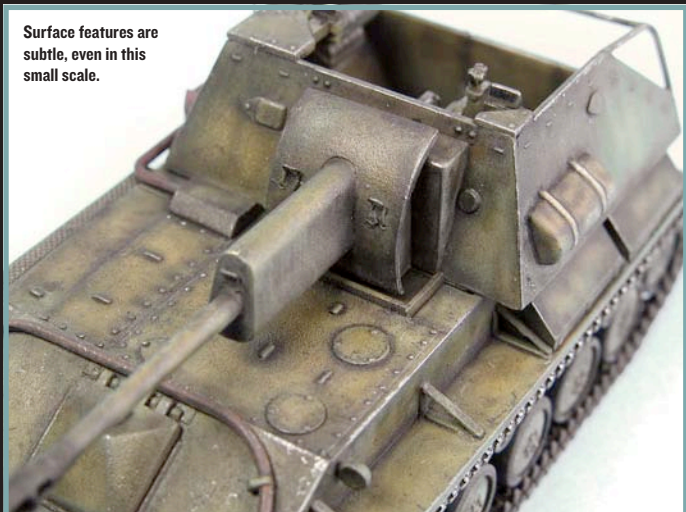
Chris was very impressed with the simplicity of the build and the finished result of UM's tiny tank destroyer. ■



Some limited interior detail is provided in the fighting compartment.



Surface features are subtle, even in this small scale.



Su-76M in profile.



**“The model was simple and quick to build and paint, and received very little extra detail...”**

UM supplies plastic link and length tracks.



## Marcus Nicholls visits Nuremberg in Bavaria for the vast annual toy fair

At this year's 'Spielwarenmesse', Tamiya announced an all-new kit of the French 'Somua S35' tank in 1:35, a much desired kit, previewed last issue. Tamiya also showed the new 1:48 Pz38(t), 1:48 PzIV ausf.H late-production and 1:35 WW1 British Infantry figure set. So, please enjoy this extended photo-report over the next few pages and our apologies for any omissions - we ran out of space to fit it all in! ■



### TAMIYA



One of the most anticipated releases this year is Tamiya's 1:35 Somua S35.



Tamiya's 1:48 scale Panzer IV Ausf. H, Late Version, looked good.



A separate Zimmerit Coating Sheet will be available for this kit too.



The new Tamiya 1:48 scale Panzerkampfwagen 38(t). We'll have more news of this in the next issue of MMI.



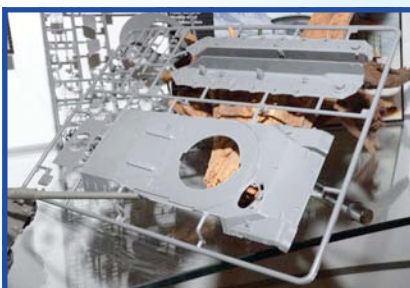
The radio controlled 1:16 JASDF Type 10 is a beast of a model.



These well detailed crew figures are available for the Type 10.

# NEW FROM NUREMBERG!

REVELL



Revell announced a new-tool 1:35 scale Leopard I (2.-4. Production Batch). The Leopard family is certainly growing!



This GTK Boxer is another 1:35 scale release, due out in August.



More new releases from Revell

## BEST OF THE REST



Eduard was on hand with announcements of new photo-etched detail set upgrades.



ICM's all-new 1:35 scale T-34/76, Model 1943.



MiniArt's gorgeous 1:35 scale B7 Tractor with Towing Winch.



The 1:35 scale Panzer III Ausf. B is also a new tool kit.



ICM unveiled a number of new buildings too. These will be handy for diorama fans.



Bronco's 1:35 scale 7.5cm Sd.Kfz. 233



Plenty of modern releases on display this year too.





ICM's new 1:35 scale Renault Lastkraftwagen, reviewed in this issue of MMI.



The forthcoming 1:35 scale ICM Horch.



ICM is expanding its WWI figure range with several new sets of British soldiers.



This 1:35 GAZ-AAA six-wheeler with a Quad Maxim gun mounted on the tray should prove popular.



Dragon were on hand with a few variations on the Tiger theme.



IBG announced a 1:35 scale Chevrolet C15...



...an Otter armoured car...



...and a 1:35 Skoda 100 mm Howitzer.



Roman Empire fans weren't left wanting either!



M5A1 Stuart, Late Version



Cast-hull M3 Lee tank in 1:35 scale

## REVELL

1:35 SCALE

SPPZ2 LUCHS A1/A2

KIT NO. 03036

This is not a brand new kit from Revell, but a welcome return of an interesting vehicle.

The SpPz 2 Luchs was first introduced into the Federal German Army in 1975 where it was used as a recon vehicle. It has all-wheel drive, is amphibious, and has the advantage of a very quiet running motor, making it perfect for its recon role. The Luchs is armed with a 20mm RH202 machine cannon and also a 7.62 mm machine gun.

Inside the box are four sprues of your typical Revell green plastic, a total of 221 parts, eight vinyl tyres and a small length of steel for the antenna. There are decals for four vehicles from 1985 to 2000.

The parts themselves appear to be clean with minimal flash, although some of the details are a little soft. This may be addressed by enhancing with a photo-etched set if your desire.

The instruction sheet is well drawn and easy to understand across 48 steps. The first 25 focus on building the drive line, the next 16 on the upper body and the last 7 on building the turret.

I am sure that once this kit is built and painted you will have a very nice representation of the Luchs, and a great addition to the great range of modern German subjects that are being released. I recommend this kit to all modern armour modellers and those who want to venture to something different and not so mainstream.

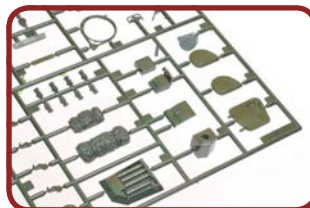
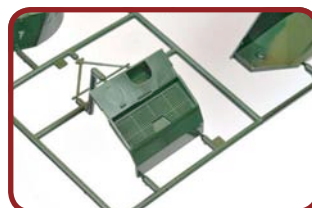
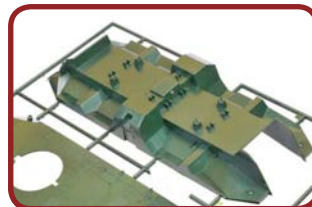
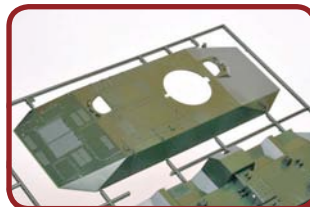
Recommended.

Revell model kits are available from all good toy and model retailers. For details visit

[www.revell.de/en](http://www.revell.de/en), @RevellGermany

or [facebook.com/Revell](https://www.facebook.com/Revell)

Andrew Judson



## LIFECOLOR

BURNED PIGMENT AND COLOR COMBO SET • ITEM NO. CS29

Many times in modelling I have wanted to try out effects of something that has been burnt out, but I've never really been able to achieve the desired effect. Perhaps with this set from Lifecolor, I may finally succeed! This new set is specifically designed to deliver burned effects with five acrylic paint colours; UA Blackened Umber, UA759 Exhausted Umber, UA760 Rusted Umber, UA761 Burned Stains and UA762 Incinerated White; plus one pigment PG117 Ash.

Combining these together and using the small but helpful chart on the back of the box, one should be able to get some very nice effects indeed. I look forward to trying these out very soon on a couple of vignettes I will be doing.

Well done on this set Lifecolor, very handy set.

Highly Recommended.

Thanks to The Airbrush Company for the samples [www.airbrushes.com](http://www.airbrushes.com)

Andrew Judson



## LIFECOLOR

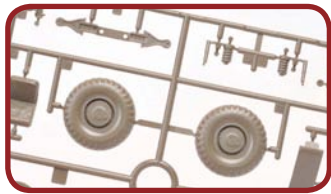
### RUST PIGMENT AND COLOR COMBO SET ITEM NO. SPG03

It is always nice to have new sets of paints and pigments available. These help us all reproduce the many effects we use in modelling. This new set from Lifecolor is a packaging of three pigments; PG107 Eroding Burned Rust, PG108 Oxidation State, PG109 Weathering Marks; and three acrylic paints; UA907 Burned Rust, UA908 Corroded Rust and UA909 Streaking Rust.

I guess by now one would have figured that this set is intended to create Rust effects. The colours all look very rich and with care using both pigments and paints together I am sure you will be able to create many brilliant finishes on those projects you are working on. It is always nice to see these new offerings from Lifecolor, Highly Recommended.

Thanks to The Airbrush Company for the samples  
www.airbrushes.com

Andrew Judson



## TAMIYA

### 1:35 SCALE M792 GAMA GOAT US 6X6 AMBULANCE TRUCK KIT NO. 35342

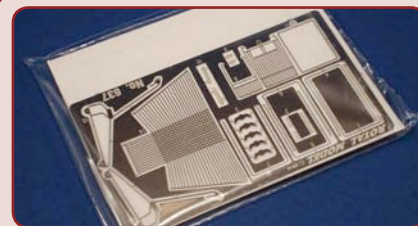
This is not exactly a brand new kit from Tamiya, more like a new variant, which is probably mostly the trailer. The kit represents the ambulance variant of this unique vehicle. The prime mover is the same as the first variant released, but the trailer/ Ambulance is new. The trailer in the real thing had folding seat in the carrier module that served as beds. Inside there was room for three wounded on stretchers and a medic, or two on stretchers and three seated. If all were seated then it could take eight people, so it was very versatile. There was a heater installed and the canvas covering to protect all from the elements had a large Red Cross painted on it. The only front line service that these vehicles saw was during the 1983 invasion of Grenada. In 1985, with the introduction of the Humvee into service, Gama Goats were used far less to the point that by 1990 they were completely withdrawn from service. Inside the box we find six sprues of plastic parts, a run of poly caps, a small decal sheet, and of course instructions and a history/facts sheet. In all, there are 169 parts.

It is not a complex kit to build, although the detail on the parts is very high with no flash, keeping clean up to a minimum. There are also two figures in this kit that appear to be quite nice and will add that extra touch to the finished item. Decals are offered for two marking options, being 82nd Airborne 1983 and 2nd Battalion, 33rd Field Artillery Regiment. Paint colours are the same, just different markings. The Ambulance Trailer appears to be quite complete with the internals of the seats heater unit and canvas cover all there, giving one the option of placing some figures in there if desired.

Overall, I think this is a great addition to the Gama Goat family and an interesting subject. Well done to the team at Tamiya for this one. Recommended.

Thanks to Tamiya Japan for the sample www.tamiya.com

Andrew Judson



## ROYAL MODEL

### SHOPPING CART. ITEM NO. 737

### TV (1930/50). ITEM NO. 733

### GENERATOR. ITEM NO. 717

### PLASTIC CHEMICAL/ WATER CONTAINERS & BOTTLES. ITEM NO. 648

Royal Model from Italy is already a legend in the scale modelling scene. Even so, this company is always pushing their own limits and achieving an ultra-level of excellency and originality. I must confess that I'm a huge fan of their products and they are always a constant presence in my dioramas.

Besides the originality, Royal Model resin items have a flawless casting and their photo-etch items are extremely well done.

Now, Royal Model presents us with four new items and all of them will be very useful in a wide variety of situations.

The 1:35 scale shopping cart, Item No. 737, is a lovely piece. Made in photo-etch and resin, it will look awesome in several scenarios.

The TV (1930/50), Item No. 733, looks amazing and will be the perfect set for an interior scenario or even a destroyed house or shop.

The Generator, Item No. 717, will look amazing in any garage or, for example, in a modern conflict being used to add that extra armour to a tank, truck, jeep. Inside the box we find resin parts, wire and crisply printed decals.

The Plastic Chemical/ Water Containers & Bottles, Item No. 648, is a generic resin set and once again will look great in any modern scenario, vehicle. Inside the box, besides the resin items, we find top quality decals.

Royal Model keeps raising the bar and answering the needs of the most demanding modeller. Inside their boxes you will find, not only top quality items, but you will also find scale modelling magic.

Highly Recommended.

Thanks to Royal Model for the samples

www.royalmodel.com

José Brito



## Small Scale A round-up of the latest news and releases in 1:72 and 1:76

### IJA Type 95 Light Tank Late Production

1:72  
ARMOR  
PRO



### DRAGON ARMOUR PRO

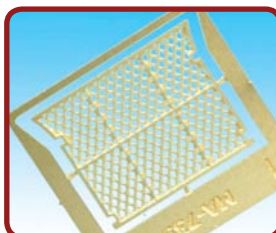
1:72 SCALE IJA TYPE 95 LIGHT TANK LATE PRODUCTION  
KIT NO. 7517

When opening the standard Dragon box, it is surprising to find how little there is inside with these Japanese Light tanks! However, having said that, what there is is superbly produced. The kit consists of an upper and lower hull, one sprue, DS tracks, a single etched brass grill, a small decal sheet and an instruction sheet. The tiny hull halves are beautifully detailed with much use of slide moulding to reproduce all the rivets, hatches and grills etc. the single sprue contains all the running gear, turret, guns and tools, again in excellent detail, the idler wheels and return rollers slide moulded as single items. The tracks are DS styrene and are well detailed despite their minute size. The one etched brass item is a guard grill to be formed around the exhaust system and very finely produced. This should look perfect when carefully painted. The decal sheet provides markings for four vehicles in the Far East, 1944, over the complex four colour Japanese camouflage scheme. This, like Dragon's other IJN light tanks, is a little gem.

Highly Recommended.

Thanks to The Hobby Company Limited for the sample [www.hobbyco.net](http://www.hobbyco.net)

Steve Shrimpton



### REVELL

1:72 SCALE LECLERC (T.5) • KIT NO. 03131

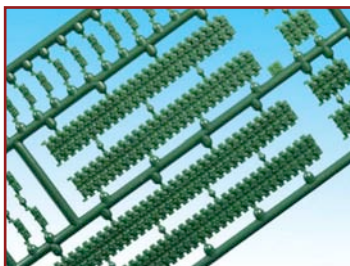
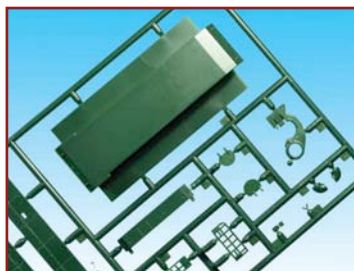
The Leclerc is the current French MBT and is wholly developed and produced in France by the AMX Company. It was introduced into the French army in January 1992 and is currently in use as the T.5/T.6. The Revell 1:72 scale kit comes in the customary end opening box and consists of four sprues of green styrene, a small decal sheet and 11 page instruction booklet. The moulding quality is up to the usual high Revell standard, with no flash or sink marks in evidence. The surface detail is excellent, especially on the hull top and turret, and the suspension components are represented completely, even though they will not be seen when the model is built. A useful feature of this kit is the fact that the lower hull sides are separate from the hull tub, so that the running gear and tracks can be constructed as complete units before attaching to the hull. The tracks themselves are of the link-and-length type in hard styrene, which although a little fiddly, are very well detailed and with care produce excellent results, compared to 'rubber band' tracks.

The rest of the kit is equally well produced, with many finely detailed parts, especially the turret details such as the 7.62mm AA MG and the independent HL-70 observation unit. The commander's and gunner's hatches are moulded open, but the drivers hatch is not and would require some surgery to open it. One slightly negative point is the fact that the main gun barrel is moulded in two halves, which always makes removing the join difficult avoiding flat spots. The small decal sheet provides markings for two vehicles, both in three colour NATO style camouflage, for Task Force Leclerc KFOR, Kosovo, June 1999 and a vehicle from 501/503 RCC. This is an excellent kit, well up to Revell's usual standard, of an important modern MBT and would make a great addition to any modern collection.

Highly Recommended.

Revell model kits are available from all good toy and model retailers. For details visit [www.revell.de/en](http://www.revell.de/en), @RevellGermany or [facebook.com/Revell](https://facebook.com/Revell)

Steve Shrimpton





## DRAGON ARMOR PRO

1:72 SCALE

CHURCHILL MK.III 'FITTED FOR WADING'.

OPERATION JUBILEE, DIEPPE, FRANCE 1942

KIT NO. 7520

This kit is another release in Dragons expanding line of Churchill tanks, which is essentially the same as their original Dieppe Raid Churchill with the addition of deep wading stacks, which were used by the tanks in the amphibious assault.

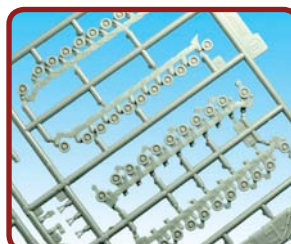
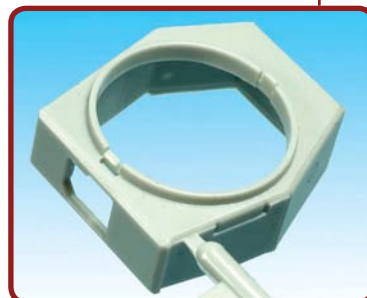
The kit comes in the standard 'Lid and Tray' box and consists of three sprues of grey styrene, a separate hull tub, DS tracks, a small decal sheet and an instruction sheet. The moulding is of the usual Dragon high standard, with much use of slide moulding, exhibiting finely executed surface detail. There is no flash or sink marks evident in this review example, although some of the sprue gates are on the large side, requiring careful separation.

The upper and lower hulls are nicely moulded, with lots of detail and the track guards correctly missing, and the engine vent grills moulded open. However, the upper grill has pioneer tools moulded across it which the instructions tell you to remove, a tricky operation at best! The other negative aspect is the tow ropes moulded on the hull sides, being very difficult to replace with aftermarket products. The hull crew hatches are moulded closed, whereas the turret hatches can be posed open allowing crew figures to be added if required. The running gear is cleverly moulded with all the road wheels and suspension in place and should look very convincing when assembled with the tracks in place. The tracks themselves are supplied in DS styrene and are very well detailed, but perhaps are the wrong sort, the Dieppe tanks having the heavier type tracks.

The wading stacks are supplied in halves giving the open upper ends fine scale thickness, but the supports, although well detailed, look very fragile and will require great finesse to assemble. The decal sheet gives marking options for three tanks, all of "B" Squadron, 14th Canadian Armoured Regiment (Calgary Regiment), 1st Canadian Army tank Brigade, 1942, in S.C.C.No2 (Brown) colour scheme. Another good Dragon kit (even if no etched brass is included!), which will build well out of the box, but will require some work to produce a truly accurate model. Highly Recommended.

Thanks to The Hobby Company Limited for the sample  
www.hobbyco.net

Steve Shrimpton



## HAULER & BRENGUN,

1:72 AND 1:48 SCALE

MODELLING ACCESSORIES

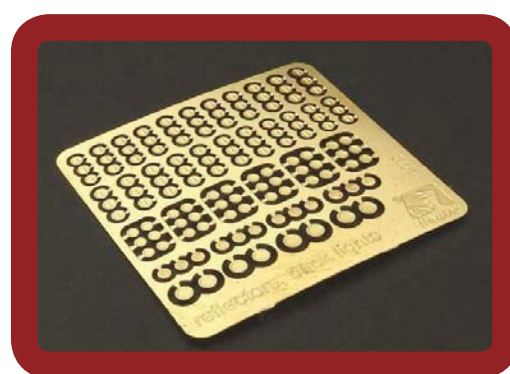
1:48 SHOPPING CART (BRL48058)

1:72 SHOPPING CART (HLH72029)

Here's an everyday item that with the potential to add interest to an urban diorama. In 1/48 scale from Brengun, and 1/72 from its parent brand Hauler, are photo-etch and resin kits of a shopping cart. The components are good quality. They include some very small and fiddly pieces, but the finished result should be quite convincing and worth the care needed in assembly. Recommended.

Thanks to Hauler for the sample www.hauler.cz

Mark Davies



## HAULER

1:72 SCALE

REFLECTORS & BACKLIGHTS • ITEM NO. HLH 72028

Here's a simple but handy set of photo-etch reflectors and backlights to 1/72 scale. After careful reflection it seems the image provide all the description needed.

Recommended.

Thanks to Hauler for the sample www.hauler.cz

Mark Davies

## THE TROUBLE WITH PHOTO-ETCH

**A**s I write this, I'm knee deep in a build of Tamiya's 1:48 scale Stug III. Those of you who know my builds will be no doubt be aware that I use a fair bit of photo etch on them. Now, the wags out there will probably say "so what's the problem? You, use it all the time, you should be used to it by now". Well, I'm here to tell you I'm not, and I still find the whole application process frustrating.

Two things come to mind. The first is the parts supplied with the photo-etch and secondly the placement instructions.

Why don't manufacturers give you spares of all the really small parts that inevitably jump from your tweezers on to the floor? I kid you not, this happens to me all the time. I'm beginning to think my body is actually repelling parts! It's like somebody up there is saying "why are you modelling dude....it's a dumb hobby!"

All jokes aside though, I find not all photo-etch is engineered to be user friendly. Some manufacturers would have you build up photo-etched assemblies from brass when a thick piece of plastic card would do. Come on guys, let's not fill up the fret with parts that really can't be made. Give us some spares that you know we will lose! But then again this may be a clever marketing ploy.

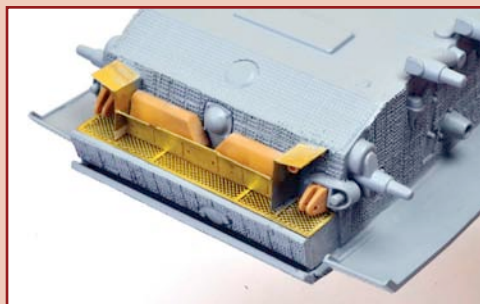
The second is the placement instructions. Most give you a three-dimensional view of where the part is meant to go but they don't provide any precise measurements about where it should be placed. Take for example the Stug

III I'm working on now. Nobody (in any etch set I have) provides exact measurements on where the brackets for the Schurzen plates go! Okay, I thought, I'll just consult my various references, but try as I may, I found nothing there either! I was reduced to taping the skirts together and trying to figure out where the brackets should go by placing a pencil through the skirt bracket openings onto the hull and fenders - not fun!

After that was done, I super glued the parts to the hull and waited overnight for the brackets to dry nice and hard.

In my next modelling session I tried to fit the skirts on to the bracket and you guessed it, some of the brackets were not in the correct positions so I started to think "here we go again" - take the (insert any swear word you can think of) brackets off and reposition. I'm beginning to think this is another clever marketing play as some of the parts will be broken and rendered unusable! What I want to see with photo-etch is precise measurements on where things like brackets should go (for the intended kit) and a few spares for parts that will inevitably be lost. They are the really tiny ones that take an age to clean up and inevitably spring like magic off your tweezers into the vast void of our respective man caves, only to be found after you have completed the build. You have to love a hobby like this!

**Until next time  
Luke Pitt**



### HAULER

#### 1:48 SCALE

#### GAZ UPDATES FOR ACE KIT

#### HLX48354 GAZ -M415 PICKUP UPDATE (FOR THE ACE KIT)

#### HLX48356 RESIN GAS WHEELS (FOR THE GAS FAMILY OF KITS BY ACE)

You have to hand it to Hauler. They provide every new 1:48 scale release with some kind of upgrade and these sets are no exception. They provide that little bit extra to refine these basically sound kits.

The first set is designed for the pickup version of the ACE family of GAZ kits and provide a photo-etched dashboard with photonegative instruments together with the windscreen surround and acetate windscreen. The pickup tray includes the seating benches and associated mounting hardware. Various other pieces include the door handles, break and accelerator peddles and rear vision mirror. A resin radiator piece is included into which a photo etch grill is placed. The resin piece is a good idea but the grill itself is not fine enough, as the spacing between the vertical bars is rendered to thickly and too widely spaced. This is a great shame as the idea behind it is a good one and I'm at odds to what Hauler has done this. I know from their previous work they are capable of very much finer work than this. However, the wheel sets are a different matter entirely. They are in a word superb with a beautifully rendered tread pattern. These will address the life expectancy concerns expressed with the choice of material used in the Ace kits for the tyres themselves. These wheels would be equally be at home on the Tamiya family of GAZ kits as well as both have the same hub design, and would be a welcome change from the off road tyre designs included in those kits.

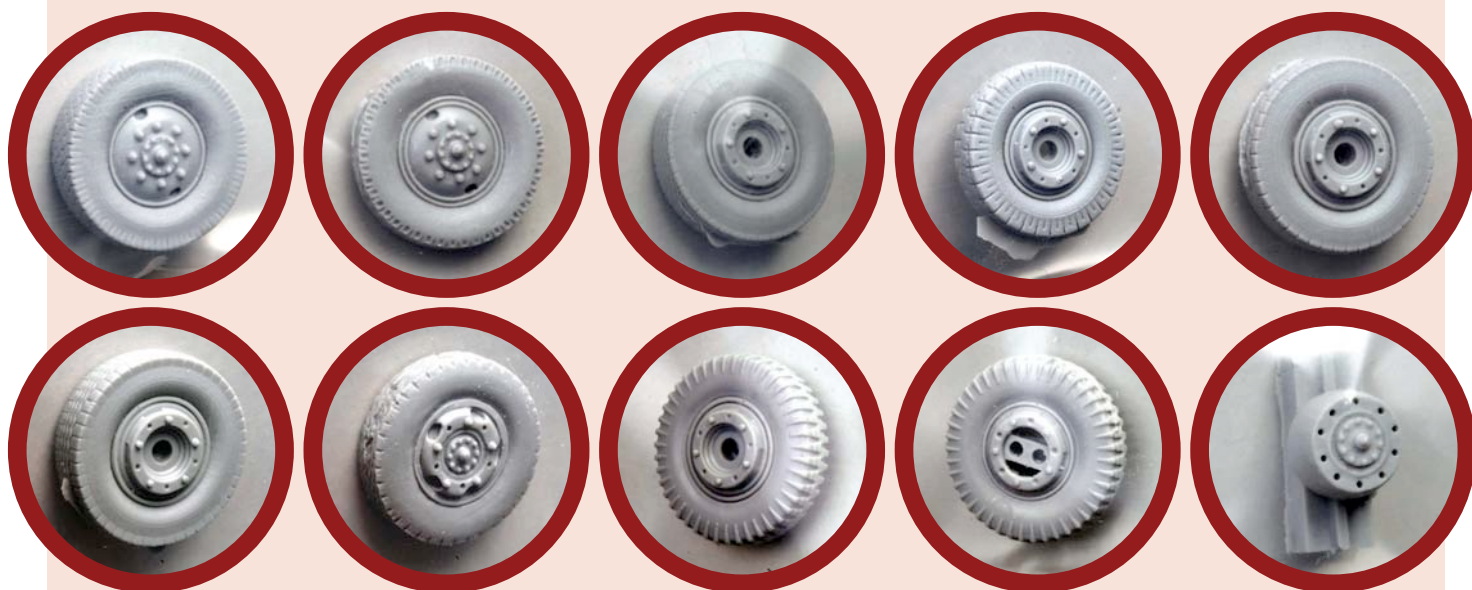
Both of these sets are well worthwhile they provide a sensible upgrade solution without the need for overly complex pieces or super small photo etch.

Recommended.

Thanks to Hauler for the review samples [www.hauler.cz](http://www.hauler.cz)

**Luke Pitt**





## TANK WORKSHOP

1:48 SCALE

SD.KFZ 234 INDIVIDUAL WHEELS

ITEM NOS. TWS48110-TWS48119

Any of you that have the Italeri German Puma armoured car will no doubt be aware that most photos of this vehicle show it deployed with all sorts of tyre and hub variations.

The Italeri kit came with only one type of off road tyre variation so these new sets will be a godsend for anyone interested in modelling any of the various versions of this vehicle.

Last year I previewed - and then bought as I was so impressed - a set of 3D printed examples for the various tyre combinations back then, I wrote: "Mr Dennis Loep has produced a very nice set of cad cam images for the different tyre tread patterns used for the German Puma Armoured car. These can be ordered from a company by the name of "SHAPEWAYS" on the following link: <http://www.shapeways.com/search?q=48th+puma+wheels> the wheels may be the future of modelling as we know it?"

Mr Loep has now given permission for Tank Workshop to release the wheels individually as resin cast items. Not only is it a great idea as you can mix and match the tyre treads as you like, but they are also remarkably cheap at USD\$1.75 each.

Now you might say that's not cheap but, I put it to you, it's a whole lot cheaper than doing them yourself!

The wheels and more importantly the tyres have made the transition from 3D printing to standard casting remarkably well, with each having a really crisply defined tread pattern

Quite simply, you can't go wrong with these - they are that good.

Highly Recommended.

Thanks to Tank Workshop for the review samples [www.tankworkshop.com](http://www.tankworkshop.com)

**Luke Pitt**

## PREVIEW

### TAMIYA PANZER IV AUSF. H

Tamiya will be soon releasing a late production Panzer IV Ausf. H. According to Tamiya:

- The distinctive Schürzen armor plates on hull sides and turret are accurately captured.
- Faithfully recreates other points such as the engine muffler, late production type tracks, plus upper road wheels and idler wheels.
- Commander torso figure is included, along with 2 marking options.
- Features link-type assembly tracks with 1-piece straight sections.
- A set of pressed zimmerit coating will also be available separately.

Thanks to Tamiya for the images and information [www.tamiya.com](http://www.tamiya.com)

Tamiya kits are distributed in the UK by

The Hobby Company Limited [www.hobbyco.net](http://www.hobbyco.net)



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

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## THE FRENCH CONNECTION

Tamiya's brand new 1:35 scale Somua S35 plus a Think Tank Reference article. (The photo is a Tamiya factory shot).



## CARPATHIAN PANZER

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## FIRST TO FIGHT

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## BLAST FROM THE PAST



### Graham Tetley takes a walk down memory lane with the Italeri Chaffee, now targetted at a new multimedia audience.

Okay, an admission before I write anymore - I have not played this World Of Tanks game yet. This 40-something dinosaur is still playing 'Panzer General' on his Playstation 1...

Apparently, World of Tanks is an online game where you can command whatever vehicle you want and cause mayhem. If it wasn't for the day job and a 1-year old baby at home I expect that I could easily get hooked.

#### THE KIT

Italeri has teamed up with the people behind the game and released the Chaffee to expand the range. In fact, as of Christmas Day 2014 that may be a wise move as the TV adverts for the game here in the UK gives you a glimpse of a Chaffee in action.

The model itself is far from new - the original appeared in the mid 1980s. It was updated in 2003 to give us a WWII version (Kit 6431) that included new T72 tracks, a small additional sprue containing new sprockets to match the track, plus some other items. Italeri also retooled the kit to give the pads on the top of the transmission bulges on the hull front as separate parts

as well as the driver's windshield with a small sheet of clear plastic provided to make the glass.

In 2012 it was re-released as an upgraded kit with a metal barrel and link and length tracks. What we get in the box here is Kit 6431 as it is missing the metal barrel and has one piece flexible tracks. The basic model comprises of approximately 230 parts (with 13 unused) and there is some flash on several items, most notably on the road wheels, tools and return rollers. Detail is adequate but not up to the standards of the Bronco or AFV Club offerings. Personally speaking I would have liked to have seen the link and length tracks included as the vinyl ones are rather stiff, impervious to any glue known on this planet, and are joined by two pins that have to be melted into place.

A bit of modelling experience will be needed to put this together but that is mainly limited to cleaning up the parts. The instructions are clear & uncluttered and, as this is based upon the game, there are four painting options (Winter x2, Summer and Desert) as well as a set of generic 'World of Tanks' emblems and several vehicle names. There is also a booklet that

contains tips on how to knock out your other opponents in the range (Tiger, Sherman & Ferdinand) as well as some game codes that get you a few free goodies.

#### CONCLUSION

My first thoughts on receiving this kit were not positive, especially when we have the more accurate Bronco and AFV Club Chaffees. But considered in the context of what it represents - a physical miniature of a computer-generated vehicle from a very popular online game - it certainly has its merits.

I feel that it is aimed at a different audience and, being a relatively simple kit, will be easy to build for those new to modelling. And that is where this kit has its strength in that it will hopefully draw more into this hobby of ours. That is by no means a bad thing.

Yes, if you want accuracy you will pass this by, but if you like the game or know someone that does, you can't go far wrong with this, either as a present or just as a fun build.

Recommended. ■

Thanks to The Hobby Company for the sample [www.hobbyco.net](http://www.hobbyco.net)



# Vosper MTB 74 St. Nazaire raid



**No 5619** model kit  
modèle réduit **1:35** scale  
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**Royal Navy MTB 74**  
St. Nazaire raid (Operation "Chariot") 28 March 1942

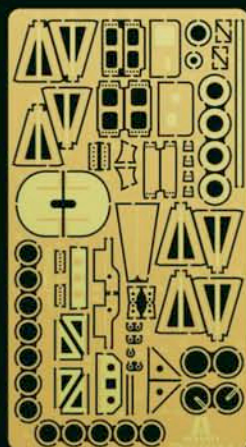
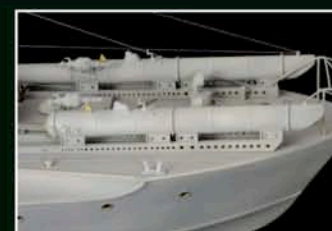


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# Fighting with Valor

1/35 Military Miniature Series French Medium Tank SOMUA S35 (Item 35344)

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Extensive measurement of a real SOMUA S35 led to this highly accurate recreation of the rounded cast metal hull and turret. ★Features realistic depictions of cast metal surfaces. ★Intuitive parts layout efficiently captures the bogey suspension and side armor plates with aplomb. ★Link-type assembly tracks provide excellent realism. ★Metal parts are included to recreate tow chains. ★Comes with a commander figure to be positioned in the turret, plus 3 marking options and color camouflage pattern reference illustrations.

Includes commander figure and 3 marking options

Realistically depicts cast metal hull and turret surfaces

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